



# Teen driver locked up after victim thrown from bonnet SEVEN YEARS FOR TRAGIC CAR PRANK

By Marion Brennan

**A TEENAGER** who caused the death of a friend when she was thrown from the bonnet of his car as a prank has been locked up for seven years.

Luke Hickman drove at speeds of 30-40mph with Ellie Underhill clinging on to the windscreen wipers of the silver Corsa until a handbrake turn sent her hurtling to the ground, causing extensive head injuries, a court heard.

But instead of calling an ambulance or taking her to hospital, Hickman, 19, and two others drove her to a McDonald's further away where they tried to clean her up with tissue. It was not until an hour and 13 minutes after the incident on Boxing Day 2016 that Miss Underhill, of Shearwater Drive, Brierley Hill, was admitted to hospital.

Staff were told she had fallen after drinking, with 19-year-old Elly Phillips doing most of the talking, said prosecutor Mr Robert Price. "At no stage were they told she had been involved in a car accident," he added.

Hickman, Phillips and Ross Bingham, 21, who had all been at the Tesco Extra car park on Birmingham Road in Dudley that night then went to Miss Underhill's home in Brierley Hill, to tell her parents she was in hospital, Stoke on Trent Crown Court heard.

Hickman, a provisional licence holder, of Wassell Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge, admitted causing death by dangerous driving and dangerous driving. He was sentenced to seven years and 10 months in a young offender's institution.

The judge described the tragedy as 'a prank with the most appalling consequences'. Phillips, of Seymour Road, Wollescote, and Bingham of Hagley Road, Edgbaston admitted conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Phillips got six months in a young offender's institution and Hana Edwards of Grove Road, Wollescote, was given an 18-month community order and 150 hours of unpaid work after admitting perverting the course of justice. Bingham was due to be sentenced yesterday (Wednesday).

## BEACH HOUSE OF FUN ENTERTAINS FAMILIES



Having fun at the seaside theme fun day at Haden Hill House, is Maisie, aged six and Mia Hodgkinson, 13, from Halesowen

THE excitement of the seaside built up as a museum brought the beach closer to home.

Haden Hill House Museum in Cradley Heath held a number of beach days in an effort to get children and their families out of the house during the school summer holidays.

More than 700 people packed out the museum and neighbouring park on Thursday for a full range of activities that carried on through to Sunday.

Children's entertainer Ron Popple and musical maestro Andy Casserley provided entertainment throughout the events. Visitors

service officer at the museum, Alison Hyatt, said: "It was the full seaside experience that put on great activities for the children."

"Ron Popple's show is always popular and his balloon animals went down a treat with the children."

"We had massive octopus all over the place and the children loved it."

"Andy Casserley's seaside sing-alongs were great too, the kids were able to play the instruments and had a whale of a time," Alison added.

"Inside the museum we had seaside-themed

trails and quizzes. Springfield Children's Centre provided sandpits, games and crafts for everyone. On some days we also had Go Play Sandwell providing us with a number of activities for children."

"We hold a range of activities during the summer holidays and the seaside theme is always popular. It's a great chance for communities to get involved and for people to enjoy the great facilities we have."

"Most of our events are free and we think it's important to help parents in the area during the summer."

### COUNCIL

## Free parking comes at cost of £500,000

DUDLEY Council's finances have taken a half-a-million pound hit following the introduction of free parking.

Figures show the authority's earnings plunged from around £1.27 million to £725,000 in the space of a year.

Two hours' free parking on council-run car parks was introduced in a bid to bring more shoppers into towns. But figures released following a Freedom of Information request showed the authority had lost out on a substantial chunk of cash.

### WARNING

## Alert after £8,000 vitamin tablet con

A WARNING has been issued after a 'vulnerable' resident was conned out of £8,000 by 11 different firms selling vitamin tablets.

Dudley Council's trading standards team said the victim was targeted over three years and paid out thousands.

Councillor Ruth Buttery said: "This deception over a sustained period is completely unacceptable."

### RETAIL

## Next step in boost for shopping centre

RETAIL giant Next has opened one of its largest UK stores at the intu Merry Hill Centre.

Queues formed outside the 75,680 sq ft store ahead of the opening on Tuesday.

The store, housing a Lipsy, homeware department and a Costa Coffee, takes the place of the former Sainsbury's site.

Next confirmed all staff from their previous two stores at Merry Hill have been transferred to the new retail outlet with a further nine new jobs being created.

### INSIDE

## FROM ROCKER TO SOCCER



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# Peek behind scenes for would-be nurses



Lead nurse Sarah Gregory, recruitment and retention lead Kerrie Walters and lead nurse Rebecca Davies at Russells Hall Hospital

ASPIRING nurses can take a glimpse at what the job entails by going behind the scenes of Russells Hall Hospital.

The Dudley hospital is looking for experienced as well as newly registered and student nurses to take on a variety of band five vacancies within the emergency department and coronary care unit.

There are also vascular, medical and surgical vacancies.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust are holding a series of recruitment days, with the next

one taking place in September 19. Interviews and conditional offers will be given on the day.

A Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust spokesman said: "We are looking for experienced and newly registered nurses to work at our trust."

"Tours of our wards and departments will be available as well as free car parking and refreshments."

Registration will begin at 4pm in the clinical education centre on the first floor in the south block of

the hospital. The event is due to last around three hours.

Kerrie Walters, recruitment and retention lead, said: "We regularly hold these events as they give people the opportunity to come and see what it is like to work at the trust and to hear firsthand about everything we have in place to support and develop our staff."

To discuss nursing opportunities at the trust contact Kerrie on 01384 456111 extension 3083, or email [Kerrie.walters@nhs.net](mailto:Kerrie.walters@nhs.net)

# Surge in call-outs for air ambulance crew

## We are family – says TV medic



Laura Hickman, left, and Jo Stevens, who cover the Dudley area, and feature in the new series

**THE Midlands Air Ambulance attended 23 per cent more missions in the last year, than in the previous year, as well as attending its 50,000th mission in March.**

Trauma and accidental incidents rose overall, reaching 1,749, of which 736 were road crashes.

Vehicle collisions were up 20 per cent compared to 2016/17 and the increase in incidents has prompted a call for more support for the service which does not receive any government funding.

Stabbings and violent crime were also responsible for the rise in call-outs – accounting for almost seven per cent of missions throughout the year.

Motorcyclists and horse riders are among the most common victims in need of assistance from air ambulance crews. On average, the Midlands Air Ambulance, which is based at Cosford, near Wolverhampton, now airlifts a biker every three days, and a horse rider every four days.

### Support

And with call-outs rising by nearly a quarter, leaders say the need for the public's support is greater than ever.

Ian Roberts, air operations manager for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, said: "It's clear from these statistics that the need for the support of the critical care paramedics and doctors on board our helicopters is higher than ever, which is why we are constantly looking to improve our operational and clinical services to ensure we can keep saving lives every day."

"The skilled aircrew, together with state-of-the-art equipment and helicopters, ensure a patient's chances of survival are vastly increased, but in order to stay operational we need to raise in excess of £9 million each year."

"Thankfully, the general public and local businesses across the six counties we cover do an amazing job every year to raise funds for the charity."

A DOCUMENTARY capturing the real-life action of the West Midlands Ambulance Service is back on our TV screens.

Inside the Ambulance is filmed in Dudley and Willenhall by the ambulance crews themselves, using GoPro cameras mounted to crew members and throughout their ambulances so viewers can get a unique perspective of their work.

The 10-episode series, airing on digital TV channel W began on Monday, and features the crews' response to medical emergencies, as well as a number of lighter moments.

Paramedic Laura Hickman, who has featured on the show since the second series, said: "I think it's great, it's a real eye-opener on the different types of jobs we go on on

a daily basis. A lot of us do four 12-hour shifts a week so we are a real family."

The documentary shines a light on the trials and tribulations of the ambulance service, Mrs Hickman added: "It's a great show, it shows we are human, some people think we are robotic but we are human. Some jobs affect us but we keep smiling away."

# Disqualified driver jailed after hitting pedestrian

A MAN has been jailed for 14 months after admitting causing serious injury to a woman when driving while disqualified.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Brodwen Partridge was badly hurt following a collision with a Vauxhall Zafira driven by Wayne Gloster in Bunn Lane, Dudley, on November 24 last year.

The victim suffered two fractures, including one to her pelvis, and she was in a wheelchair for a few months.

Gloster, 43, of French Road, Dudley, also admitted having no insurance and failing to stop at an earlier hearing.

Prosecuting, Sati Ruck, said: "The victim stepped into the road and got about halfway when she was hit by the car."

"The defendant got out of the vehicle and approached her, before driving off. A witness followed the defendant to a driveway, where he was in a property shouting for a pillow for the victim."

"The witness offered him a lift back, but he said he would walk, but was not seen again."

Defending, Steven Bailey, said: "This is not a man hiding from responsibility of what he has done."

Judge Dean Kershaw sentenced him to 14 months in prison for causing serious injury whilst driving disqualified. He was sentenced for five months for driving while disqualified, to run concurrently, and banned from driving for 67 months.

# Last-gasp buyer for Poundworld

POUNDWORLD has been rescued in a last-minute deal – but only a small number of stores are expected to be saved.

Dublin retailing family, the Hendersons, who opened Ireland's original Poundworld store in 1984, have agreed a bid for the UK firm. All of Poundworld's stores are now closed as planned but the family will begin to reopen some after the deal is rubber-stamped. It is not yet known if any of those in the Midlands are affected by the deal.

Branches in Merry Hill, Bloxwich and West Bromwich were in the first round of closures. The remaining shops in the Black Country include two in Wolverhampton, in the Mander Centre and on Birmingham Road, as well as a branch on the Reedswood Retail Park in Walsall.

# Park scheme 'yes'

A NEW classroom facility and climbing wall will be built at Baggeridge Country Park, after new plans were approved.

The plans for the park off Fir Street, in Gospel End, near Sedgley, also include an attached canopy for the classroom, outdoor shelter and storage containers.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Witness plea after race attack in pub

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following an assault at a pub near Stourbridge. Investigating officers say they believe the attack, on July 28, was racially motivated.

It is believed a man in his 40s was verbally abused and assaulted inside the toilets of a pub in Bromsgrove Road, Hagley between 8.30pm and 11pm. The victim was not injured.

The suspects are described as four or five white men, aged between 20 and 24. One was 5ft 10in and of an average build, one was wearing a T-shirt and blue jeans, and one was wearing a green/grey T-shirt. It is believed he may have later been picked up in a white VW Beetle.

Witnesses should call 101, quoting incident reference 22/66906/18.

### £900 penalty over false puppy claim

A MAN who falsely claimed that a pedigree German Shepherd puppy was Kennel Club registered has been ordered to pay more than £900.

The prosecution was brought by Dudley Council Trading Standards after Martin Lloyd, aged 27, sold the puppy to a Halesowen couple for £860.

Lloyd, of Stretton Road, Willenhall, admitted engaging in a commercial practice which was a misleading action. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £460 in compensation, £500 costs and a victim surcharge of £20.

### Pale ale created for football club

A NEW beer has been created for Halesowen Town FC as it kicks off the new season.

Yeltz Pale Ale is a 3.8 per cent brew from Blackheath's Fixed Wheel Brewery. It has been named in recognition of the club's nickname, The Yeltz.

The club, which plays in the Evo-Stik League Premier Division Central, began the season with a 1-0 win over Lowestoft Town last weekend, and will have the new ale on sale at its bar at the ground at The Grove.

### Experience colour in gallery exhibition

A NEW exhibition called Experience Colour is coming to a gallery in Stourbridge.

The exhibition runs at the arts centre at Ruskin Glass Centre at the Glasshouse Arts Centre in Wollaston Road from August 29 to October 14.

It will focus on the science and art of colour and include large installations and hands-on experiments.

Admission will be £5 with under-12s going free.

## Merged taxi 'super firm' recruiting 100 drivers

NEW taxi drivers are urgently needed across the Black Country as two companies prepare to merge in a bid to take on Uber.

The firms, 24 7 Cars and ABC Cars, plan to create a 'super firm' of 700 taxis.

Company director of 24 7, Shahzad Ali, said there was a 'greater need and demand' for efficient and reliable taxi service across the Black Country. He said: "Taxi drivers play a fundamental role in their community, they take the public to hospital appointments, school runs and everything in-between. It is a rewarding."

### Demand

"As a company, we are investing in the training and development of our drivers and are striving to achieve professional levels. We have also invested in our customer service centre and technology systems to achieve and deliver a world-class service."

"We are currently doing about 50,000 journeys a week all around the West Midlands. There is enough demand to double that if we get enough drivers."

24 7 Cars is currently an independently-owned company. But if it merges with ABC Cars, the firm would operate under a new name and base, serving Willenhall, Darlaston, Bilston, Wolverhampton, Bloxwich and Walsall.

## Chamber's advice on Iran sanctions

THE Black Country's biggest business organisation is urging companies worried about new Iran trade sanctions to get in touch for crucial advice.

In the wake of the US re-imposing sanctions, the Black Country Chamber of Commerce is warning affected businesses to contact the organisation before taking any further action.

On Tuesday, President Trump announced he would re-impose a trade embargo on Iran after withdrawing from a 2015 deal that lifted sanctions in return for a halt on Iran's nuclear programme.

Any firm affected by the sanctions or seeking information can contact Gerald La Touche, International trade adviser at the chamber, on 01902 912318.

## Relatives sought

BLACK Country Coroner's Court wants to trace relatives of 86-year-old Doris Bradbury, who died at her Kingswinford home in Moss Grove on August 5. Call Wendy Plummer at the coroner's office on 0121 569 7200.

# Comic boosts funeral funds appeal

THOUSANDS of pounds have been donated to pay for the funeral costs of a much-loved teenager who died after a swimming tragedy while on holiday.

Following the intervention of comedian Jason Manford, the online fundraiser for 16-year-old Blake Ward, from Dudley, has reached in excess of £12,000, more than double its initial £5,000 target.

The comic, who heads a group of anonymous donors dubbed the Charity Ninjas, shared the story of the Hillcrest School and Community College student's death on his Facebook page.

Before the comedian became involved, the total on the GoFundMe page was at £1,860, but has since shot up to a total of £12,268.

One of the biggest donations has come from the

Year 11 pupil's former school friends who organised a charity football match at The Portway in Oldbury.

Scores of people attended – including one of Blake's teachers, who interrupted a family holiday to be there.

The match realised £943 through a bucket collection, tombola and cake sale.

His girlfriend Stephanie Ray, who set up the GoFundMe page, said: "I'm just speechless. I can't thank you all enough. It's brought me to tears to see so many people come and watch the match."

The teenager, who had moved to live in Wolverhampton six months ago, died in hospital four days after being rescued from the sea at Tywyn North beach, west Wales, after getting into difficulties.

Blake's sister Libbie Sullivan also set up the GoFundMe page with the aim of raising £5,000 for his funeral. The excess cash will be donated to the air ambulance and sea rescue charities. Last Wednesday, family and friends gathered at Green Park, Kates Hill, Dudley, where Blake used to play football, for a balloon release in celebration of his life.

Hillcrest School principal April Garratt said: "Blake was a wonderful young man. It is such a tragedy when a young life is taken especially in these circumstances."

She said that staff would be on hand to support pupils on August 23 when they turned up to collect their GCSE results.

# Labour leader Corbyn: Austin must face probe

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn has called for an investigation MP Ian Austin to be dealt with as quickly as possible – but refused to back his deputy Tom Watson in calling for the inquiry to be dropped.

Dudley North MP Mr Austin is facing possible suspension from the party after an internal inquiry was launched into his behaviour during a heated argument with chairman Ian Lavery over tackling anti-semitism.

The investigation should be dropped, according to West Bromwich East MP Mr Watson, who has said the party will be unfit for government if urgent action is not taken to deal with the issue.

But Mr Corbyn, on a visit to Walsall, said: "A complaint has been received, it is being investigated and I think it should be left to be investigated and dealt with, but hopefully as quickly as possible. I don't want these things hanging around."

### Conduct

An internal inquiry into Labour MP Margaret Hodge – launched by the party after she called Mr Corbyn 'an antisemite and a racist' in the House of Commons – was dropped. Her comments were made after the party introduced a new code of conduct adopted from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, which excluded several examples.

A review of the code is now being carried out. Last week, Mr Watson said the ongoing arguments over anti-semitism within the party will mean it will 'disappear into a vortex of eternal shame and embarrassment' if they were not ended.

Mr Corbyn said: "I want us to move on and want us to be in a place where the party is quite clear we don't accept anti-semitism in any form whatsoever."

"I don't want cases hanging around. If an objection or complaint is made it should be investigated quickly from the point of view of those who made the complaint and those subject of the complaint."

## Smiles all round at annual fun day



Anisa Ahmed, aged six and Ishan Ullah, seven, have their faces painted at the Tipton Community Fun Day

THERE were smiles all round for The Tipton Community Funday at Victoria Park at the weekend.

The free local event was back for its 12th year on Sunday.

Activities for all ages included fairground rides, dancing, karate demonstrations, band music, bouncy castles and climbing wall. There were also car boot sales.

Health and beauty stalls featured as well as cultural and traditional food stalls.

A wide range of public and voluntary organisations set up information stands with details on available services in the local area.

Councillor Bill Gavan, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "This long-established

community event is always a highlight in the events calendar."

The fun day was organised by the Bangladeshi Women's Association (BWA) in partnership with Sandwell Council, Big Lottery Fund and supported by partners including the police, Tipton Development Group, Friends of the Victoria Park and others.

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# Stopping riders who tear up green spaces in their tracks

**COUNCIL** chiefs are putting the brakes on motorbikes and quad bikes being driven irresponsibly on green spaces in Dudley.

Dudley Council is implementing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) across the borough. It will give police and local authority officers more powers to tackle what has become a growing problem.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We have received a very positive response from our consultation and we now intend to implement the order. Our message is clear, we will not tolerate anti-social behaviour on our green spaces."

## £5,000 – duck race quacker for hospice

A CHARITY canal rubber duck race and fun day helped raise £5,000 for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Hundreds of ducks were launched at the second annual Black Country Duck Race, with more than 1,000 people cheering them on at the Tenth Lock Pub, in Delph Road.

It helped to raise £5,000 for the hospice with funds coming from duck entries and attractions at the fun day.

Chere Griffin, landlord of the Tenth Lock, said: "It is our privilege to put events on like this for our community."

## Factory fire arrest

A 27-year-old man was arrested and held in police custody on suspicion of arson following a factory fire in Hurst Business Park, Navigation Drive, Brierley Hill, last Friday.

## Powers

"This initiative gives the police and council officers new enforcement powers to crack down on people who spoil the tranquillity of green spaces and risk the safety of others by irresponsibly using motor vehicles."

The PSPO will cover problem areas Fens Pool Nature Reserve, Mullet Park, Barrow Hill Nature Reserve, Russells Hall, Buckpool Nature Reserve, Woodside Park and Marsh Park as well as green spaces at Milking Bank, Pensnett Technical College, Lapwood Avenue/Ketley Fields, and Pheasant Street.

Police and authorised officers will have the power to issue fines of up to £100 for those caught using motorised vehicle illegally on the named areas.

Failure to pay may lead to prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000. The vehicles could also be confiscated.

## Stolen sheep rescued from canal



Animal keeper Lydia Parker with the sheep which was rescued from a canal

A STOLEN sheep which was saved from a Dudley canal has been taken in by a sanctuary – where it awaits its owner.

The sheep, a female adult who has yet to be named, was found in a canal in Netherton and has been taken in at Brookwood Animal Sanctuary in Sedgley.

Steve Austin, 61, a volunteer at the sanctuary, said: "The owner has been found."

"We had a phone call from the council asking if we could take in a sheep they had found."

"People managed to get it into a builder's merchant yard and then they called the council."

"The sheep has got an ear tag so they have traced it to a farm in Wales – the ear tag was from the original farm and he had sold the sheep to a farm in Clent Hills."

"The farmer from Clent Hill told the council that he had a lot of sheep stolen and this is one of the sheep that was stolen."

## COUNTY NEWS

### Number of weekly pub closures static

THE number of pubs closing every week has remained at around 18 amid evidence that more people are choosing to drink at home, according to a new report.

The Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) says there were 476 closures in the first six months of the year across the UK, 13 more than in the last six months of 2017.

Camra also reported that four out of five people had experienced a local pub closure in the past five years.

### House price rise bucks forecasts

HOUSE prices grew faster than expected in July, hitting a record high as pressure on household finances begins to ease, according to Halifax.

The annual pace of house price growth rose 3.3 per cent, smashing economists' forecasts for a 2.6 per cent increase, and helping average prices hit a new record high of £230,280.

The figure compares with the 1.8 per cent rise in June and is the largest increase since last November.

### Shortage of skilled workers now worse

THE shortage of skilled workers is getting worse, with most organisations now having problems recruiting suitably qualified staff.

The recruitment process is also taking longer, making it more expensive for firms to hire employees, said the Open University. Its research among almost 1,000 business leaders found that three out of five believe skills shortages have worsened.

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## Institute HQ on move to training centre

THE Institute of Cast Metal Engineers has moved its headquarters to the new National Foundry Training Centre in Dudley Port, Tipton.

The ICME is the professional body for people involved in the casting, foundry pattern-making and associated industries.

The National Foundry Training Centre is one of the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills 'spokes' which recently opened adjacent to one of the Thomas Dudley foundry sites. The ECMS is a new employer-led training facility for the Black Country, designed to enhance productivity by providing specialist training and helping to close skills gaps identified by employers.

The project is a £12 million collaboration between the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, University of Wolverhampton, Dudley College, Cast Metals Federation, Confederation of British Metalforming and the ICME.

The ECMS Hub will be based at the university's £100 million Springfield Campus and will deliver skills training through short courses and apprenticeships at three spoke locations – Tipton, Aldridge and Dudley. Trevor Ayre, national president of ICME, said: "We now have a facility that feels like the centre of the UK foundry industry."

## Woman talked down down in jump threat

A BUSY route was closed in both directions as a woman threatened to jump from a bridge.

Emergency services were called to a bridge over Duncan Edwards Way, also known as the Dudley Bypass, at around 8pm on August 7.

Police said the distressed woman was threatening to jump but after two hours was taken to safety.

# Almost £1m of council cash is still waiting to be spent

## Truckman boost exports via Swiss link



Phil Smith, Truckman business development manager, left, and sales manager James Zaremba

DUDLEY-BASED Truckman, a leading manufacturer and supplier of hardtops for pick-up trucks, is increasing its export activity after establishing a long-term relationship with a Swiss vehicle accessory supplier.

Casco Accessories has been serving the Swiss pick-up market for five years enjoying rapid growth and recently expanded into the larger Italian market where the 4x4 vehicles are growing in popularity among both leisure and

commercial users. Having first imported hardtops from Holland, Casco Accessories has now struck the agreement with Truckman for a selection of its luxury and robust commercial canopies to meet a growing demand.

It is now successfully supplying Fiat, Ford, Isuzu, Mitsubishi and Nissan dealers in Switzerland with Truckman hardtops and aims for similar growth in Italy. From its base in northern Switzerland, Casco Accessories stocks

Truckman hardtops which are all designed in the UK.

While the UK remains the core market for Truckman, about 10 per cent of its business comes from international sales and the Black Country company aims to increase its export activity through relationships with companies such as Casco Accessories.

Truckman is also targeting France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

**NEARLY £1 million earmarked for local improvements across Dudley borough remains unspent after five years, it has been revealed.**

But Dudley Council has defended the underspend, saying it meets regularly to decide how it uses Section 106 cash, which it obtains from planning agreements with developers.

Deadlines for spending the money vary and can range from five to 20 years. The funds are collected as part of conditions imposed on developers when granting planning permission and can be used for schools, parks and other community facilities.

A Freedom of Information request revealed Dudley Council collected £1.48 million via Section 106 over the last five years but spent only £428,000. Of the remaining £1,052,000, nearly £160,000 has been allocated leaving £893,000 unused in council coffers.

### Defended

Over the same period, the authority has had to cut services as central government reduced funding.

The council has defended how it spends and allocates the money.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: "It is agreed in advance with developers what purpose the Section 106 payments will be used for, and they remain ring-fenced for that purpose."

"Deadlines for spending the money vary and can range from five to 20 years – indeed in some cases there is no deadline."

"It depends on the development itself and the purpose for which the cash is being provided."

"Before a proposed spend we consult with councillors in the relevant ward, before a final sign-off by the relevant cabinet member, to ensure any investment adds value to the community and meets both local and strategic needs."

## Zoo launches a search for Santa Claus

IT might be the height of the summer holidays – but bosses at Dudley Zoo are already in hot pursuit of Father Christmas.

The zoo has launched its search for a Santa to star in the busy Winter Wonderland grotto from December 1 to 24.

Andrea Hales, marketing manager, said: "Although it's still sunny August, we're launching a summer search for a Santa to join our hugely popular grotto. We'll supply the uniform but it would be wonderful if he had his own white beard."

Interested Santas – with or without beards – should apply before August 31, and include a CV and any festive photos if they have taken on the role previously.

Applications can be sent to marketing@dudleyzoo.org.uk or Marketing Department, Dudley Zoological Gardens, Castle Hill, Dudley, DY1 4QF.

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Now is it all change if we moan enough?

ACCORDING to a poll commissioned by that bastion of impartiality People's Vote, an organisation set up to campaign for a second referendum on leaving the EU, about half the population of the UK think it would be a good idea. Who'd have thought it?

As opinion polls go, it sounds about as authoritative as the old Whiskas advert which said eight out of 10 cats preferred their food. Still, they could be on to something. Perhaps it sets a precedent that any result we don't like can be reversed if we moan enough.

The Championship play-off final, for example, was a huge mistake. Villa should clearly have won. Time for a group called People's Final to commission a poll outside Villa Park at, say, 5.45 on a Saturday afternoon.

As for that World Cup semi-final against Croatia...

□□□

THAT said, if there is one group more fanatical than the EU zealots, it must be militant cyclists.

Not the millions of ordinary people who simply enjoy riding bikes, you understand. While I don't understand the appeal myself, particularly if it means turning up at your destination dripping with sweat and needing a change of clothing, I do recognise that many people do. Each to their own, and all that.

The people I'm talking about are those on a mission to convert the rest of us to their way of thinking. They spend thousands on bizarre clothing, subscribe to all the magazines, and never stop boring the rest of us about their virtuous lifestyle. And for some reason, they view themselves as some kind of marginalised minority group warranting special treatment.

Over the weekend transport minister Jesse Norman announced proposals to update road safety laws following the death last year of Kim Briggs at the hands of cyclist Charlie Alliston. Because dangerous driving laws do not extend to cyclists, the prosecution had to rely on a charge of "wanton and furious driving" under an 1861 act aimed at horse-drawn carriages. As a result, Alliston was let off with an 18-month sentence, and is presumably at liberty once more.

You would think any reasonable person would be in favour of closing this loophole. But after a few hours of rage from the cycling zealots on Twitter the minister issued a timid apology.

I'm not sure which is the most pathetic. The siege mentality of the cycling nuts, or the craven minister who lacked the backbone to stand up to them.

## Boris wades in once again, where others fear to tread



Blackadder's First World War tunic – but Amiens was a battle which turned the tide



Boris's burka blast was not as much of a tub-thumping tirade as you might expect



Julian Lory, who was told to do some DIY policing after reporting his tools had been stolen

# Taxing times for pay-up politeness

STILL no reply from TV Licensing on why their reminders have adopted a more threatening tone of late. In the meantime, a reader points out that the vehicle-tax reminder from the DVLA now begins: "Tax it or lose it." First the threat, then the demand for money. And we pay their wages. I seem to remember a time when every communication from the Civil Service ended: "I remain your most obedient servant."

THE way things are going it's only a matter of time before all these official reminders begin with: "Pay up or we'll send the boys round."

GREAT dates in history. August 8, 2018: Britain discovers the Battle of Amiens. This week's wall-to-wall coverage of the centenary of the battle was a lesson for the nation, delivered rather late.

THE problem this country's influential liberal-Left has always had with the First World War is that for almost 100 years the only acceptable narrative was one of butchery, failure, waste, stupidity, lions led by donkeys, Blackadder and Oh, What a Lovely War. So it's a bit awkward having to explain to a forgetful and ignorant nation that Britain and her Allies, led by the same "donkeys" as in 1916, actually won the war in the summer and autumn of 1918. They did it in a series of fast, mobile battles, skilfully co-ordinating armour, artillery, air power and infantry in a way never seen before. The Tommies of 1918 were proud of their victories, and we should be, too.

I AM not a fan of Boris Johnson. He was a dismal foreign secretary and would be a monumentally bad prime minister. But as a commentator and columnist who gets the nation talking,

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



he is in a class of his own. And if you haven't read his Daily Telegraph column on the burka, then do. After all the fuss and fury, you may expect to find a beer-hall rant, a tub-thumping demand for burkas to be banned. It is exactly the opposite.

JOHNSON'S column is a timely, considered, intelligent and humane plea for Britain not to follow Denmark and France by imposing a ban on all face-coverings. Johnson clearly dislikes such forms of dress - hence his "letter box" jibe - but there is absolutely no way that his column, in an upmarket newspaper, could stir up racial or religious hatred - although some of the hysterical and politically-inspired reactions to it might. The howling-down, the demands for him to be punished are chilling. We are supposed to live in a free country. Some days I barely recognise it.

AND off to the car-accessory showroom where the staff have all been issued with headphones and Britney-style microphones, enabling them to communicate across the store. The result is a weird detachment. The lady at the till is looking at you and talking but she is not talking to you. She is talking to Carl in roof racks & camping and that sweet smile is for him, not you. So when you smile back, she looks at you as though you're mad. One day all these jobs will be done by robots. I don't think we will notice the difference.

WHILE he was busy repairing a roof in a Dev-

on village, Julian Lory had £8,000 worth of tools stolen by burglars. Police advised him to "go door to door" and see if he could "generate a line of inquiry." No surprises there, then. The days are long gone when the constabulary responded to ordinary crimes inflicted on ordinary people. The best Mr Lory can hope for is that one day he'll get a call that goes: "Hi, Julian. It's Pc Bloggs here at the local nick. Thing is, we've got a hole in the roof and wondered if you could fix it for us." And Mr Lory will have the exquisite joy of replying: "No. I've got a better idea. Buy a trowel and some nails and a bucket full of mastic and then get yourself a ladder and . . ."

HERE'S something to worry about when the drought goes away. After the discovery of water beneath the surface of Mars, a scientist popped up on telly to stress the absolute necessity of not contaminating Martian microbes with germs from Earth. Fair point. But to be honest I'm more worried about humankind's eternal quest for knowledge resulting in a vial of Martian microbes being brought to Earth - and someone dropping it.

AS any father will tell you, heroism is not part of the job description. But there was one moment in 1990 when I came home from work and presented my four-year-old daughter with something that made me the hero of the hour. I'd been interviewing a pair of North Country comedians and although I'd barely heard of them, my little girl was a huge fan. She still has that autographed photo of the Chuckle Brothers. Barry Chuckle died a few days ago and I bet a lot of 30-somethings shed a tear.

## TALKING POINT



# Doctor's orders on row over parking

IN reply to Mark Shipp's comments on the parking of emergency vehicles.

To begin with, the parking warden had actually been trained by EuroPark to not give out parking tickets to emergency vehicles so I would say he actually wasn't doing his job properly.

But to be honest, I don't even think that is the point.

Whether you think EuroPark actually trained him this way or he was being a jobs worth is up to you.

Mark 'agreed' with the fact that emergency workers need a drink during a long shift but didn't actually give any solutions to the problem.

Where they parked wasn't ideal but there was actually nowhere else nearby to park.

And on another point, this was private parking, so there are no actual 'laws' pertaining to this.

What I would like to ask Mark is how exactly does he think these hardworking, often self-sacrificing people will be able to drink, eat or even use the toilet if they have nowhere to park?

They may not have been on an emergency call (you don't exactly see a blue light to pick up a sandwich from Tesco's!) but they're always on stand-by for them.

So my question to you is - how would you feel if you called an ambulance for someone you cared about, someone very ill, possibly dying - and it took too long to arrive?

This is the reality of the situation if emergency workers find somewhere 'legal' to park.

If their ambulance is parked 20 minutes away and they have to run back, this loses precious time that they could be treating the patient.

And in some situations, minutes can mean life or death.

Would you really begrudge an ambulance parking on double yellows, would you be willing to run that risk?

Unfortunately these days in the current state of the NHS, a break doesn't necessarily mean a break. If often means ramming a sandwich down your throat as fast as possible and moving on to the next patient.

Our breaks are supposed to be protected but be realistic, are we going to sit down and relax with a cup of tea or down it and do our job?

It's hard being an emergency worker. Please try to walk a mile in our shoes before you criticise.

We are people, not super humans so please don't begrudge us a quick sandwich in between saving people's lives.

A&E DOCTOR

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# Tories put party before country's interests

I too must disagree with Mr Perry. I have numerous friends and relations who voted leave. They are definitely intelligent, some having university degrees and others holding positions of authority.

I do believe, however, that they were let down by Government and were deceived by factions within society. The public were led to believe misconceptions that the UK is powerless against the huge EU bloc. This is completely false! As the second largest economy, we have massive influence, in addition to which we can veto any measures

that we believe to be against our principles or damaging to our economy. If our representatives have failed to use the veto, then we should blame them.

We pay a lot of money for membership, but so do the other 27 members. It all goes into a huge fund from which any EU nation can draw to fund improvements to infrastructure and community projects. Outside the EU, such projects will have to come from our income tax. None of these things were made clear during the referendum.

Taking all this into account, in addition to other disadvantages we might

face, I believe there should be a second referendum. We pay our Government to do what is best for our country, not to concentrate on quelling dissent within a political party.

Knowing the upheaval in every sector of the economy, with unknown long term consequences, the Government could simply withdraw from the process and stay in the EU.

The only good thing, if this turns into a disaster the Tories might never get into Government again.

**MICHAEL CLIFF**  
Wall Heath

## Underage riders are a holiday menace

AS the school holidays are now here, I would like to remind all parents of the dangers of letting their under-age children ride motor-cycles, quad bikes and other similar vehicles on the highway. It is illegal.

They are a danger to themselves and to other road users as they lack the necessary skills to ride safely, in addition to not carrying any insurance whatsoever.

### Towpaths

Not riding on the public highway does not mean they should be redirected to ride on the canal towpaths, footpaths or public parks either.

How sad it would be to hear about a child being killed, or of them killing an innocent person, through the sheer folly of under-age driving.

**BRIAN STONE**  
Dudley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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## I am not fooled by the EU autocrats

THE EU leaders have nothing but contempt for liberal democracy, all they want is absolute control of politics, the economy and the judiciary and also, if possible, the media.

Are these unelected autocrats so strong or are we the serfs too weak to remove them? All these EU leaders want is to make the laws and rules and tell us what to do, they don't like referendums, they need to keep power to themselves. My days of touching my forelock are long gone. Our fathers fought for a free Europe and a free world. The EU might fool a lot of people but not me. I will never ever surrender to the EU. I want my country back so I can walk with my great grandchildren in England's green and pleasant land once more.

**MR R F GOODALL**  
Worsley

## Blue badge for the depressed?

PETER Rhodes says blue badges may be given to sufferers of autism and mental illness. Apparently supporters of this have stickers branding others as pig ignorant. I suffer from stress, anxiety and depression. Last time I checked they were forms of mental illness, as is OCD. Therefore I am qualified to make comment without being pig ignorant.

Why ever these justify a blue badge is beyond me. In fact if I needed a blue badge for anxiety should I be on the road at all? I do however have arthritic knees and ankles and need a walking aid, usually a shopping trolley.

Still, I have seen large SUVs in disabled bays, and wonder how a person with mobility problems gets in and out. The proposals are more than absurd; they are a licence to park where and whenever, and for free. That is some pay-off for being depressed.

**ROBERT W WHITE**  
Wigmore

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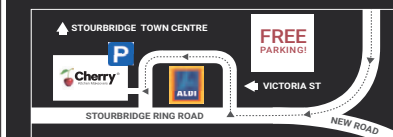
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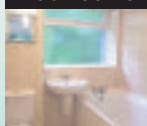
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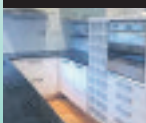
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## 8 Drug abuse deaths soar over decade

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 16, 2018

ONE person dies from drug abuse in the Black Country every six days, with the number of deaths almost doubling in a decade, shock new figures have revealed.

It is the same in the Stafford borough, Cannock Chase and South Staffordshire, where deaths have trebled.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show there were 122 deaths in the Black Country which involved illegal drugs or were as a result of drug abuse or dependence. The figures cover the two-year period between 2015-2017 and are up from 73 drug abuse deaths in 2005-2007.

### Budgets

The borough with the highest rate was Walsall, where 5.1 people died from drug abuse per 100,000 population. This compared to 3.7 in Wolverhampton, 3.8 in Sandwell and 3.6 in Dudley.

In Stafford, Cannock Chase and South Staffordshire there were 165 drug abuse deaths in 2015 to 2017, up from 14 in 2005 to 2007. Stafford had the worst rate, 5.9 drug abuse deaths per 100,000 people, followed by Cannock Chase with 4.8. The national rate is 6.4.

The rise in deaths come at a time council budgets are cutting spending on drug rehabilitation services.

## Fancy a pantomime role? Oh yes you do

A STOURBRIDGE-BASED amateur theatre company is looking for actors to join its cast for this year's Christmas pantomime.

A Comedy Theatre Group is looking for actors for Snow White and her friends and a female daytime TV-style presenter.

The group meets Monday evening at Gigmill Church Hall, Wotton Street, from September 3.

# Cabbie attacked after fearing his passengers wouldn't pay

## Doorstop Buddha under hammer

A RARE Buddha statue used as a doorstop by an elderly couple is expected to sell for 'a spectacular sum' when it goes under the hammer with eight others.

Made from gold and bronze, the nine ornaments were found among 300 other collectables in the home of an elderly London couple.

They were dotted around, hidden in cupboards and sitting on coffee tables - with one used to prop open a door.

The Buddhas come from China and Thailand and are believed to be from the 16th century Ming dynasty.

They will go under the hammer at Stourbridge-based firm Fieldings Auctioneers on September 1.

Fieldings' Asian Art expert, Will Farmer, who is also an expert on the BBC's Antiques Roadshow, said: "The couple were collectors and had an amazing life travelling the world picking up hundreds of items."

"Out of these we found these fantastic Asian Buddhas that were spectacularly dotted all over the house."

"The market for Asian art has sky-rocketed in the last 10 years. We expect the highest valued Buddha to fetch between £8,000 to £12,000."

"Because of the rarity of the pieces they're an unknown quantity and could reach spectacular sums."

The money from the auction will go back to the family and the estate, with the auction house dividing the 300 lots between sales in September and October.



Mark Hannam from Fieldings Auctioneers, with one of the buddhas

A FATHER and son who assaulted and racially abused a taxi driver have been handed suspended jail terms. The pair - both called Jason Deathridge - struck at a filling station forecourt where they had allegedly been locked in the stationary cab.

The move came amid fears they were not going to pay the fare, a judge was told, but it was alleged that two of the passengers may have suffered panic attacks.

The two men and three females, two of whom were aged 13 and 14, were picked up from the Hasbury Conservative Club in Halesowen.

Another woman customer had been collected from an address in Brierley Hill, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Taxi driver Tanvir Dad was asked by her to take the group to Blackheath but on the way overheard conversation in the back of the cab that suggested to him the passengers were not going to pay when they reached the destination, said Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting.

### Midnight

He decided to drive back to a BP petrol station in Stourbridge Road which was illuminated and covered by CCTV which showed the vehicle was parked for six minutes without anybody getting out.

Meanwhile, another taxi driver stopped to talk with Mr Dad through an open window shortly before the passengers started to get out at around midnight on December 10, 2016, the court was told.

The younger Deathridge, who, like his father, appeared to have been drinking, hurled racial abuse at the driver whom he chased before knocking him to the ground where the victim was kicked several times as the

### Report by John Scott

48-year-old father joined in, ending up on top of Mr Dad as others rushed to end the violence. The driver suffered bruising to the back, shoulder and face.

Mrs Ruck concluded: "Jason Deathridge senior accepts that his son was shouting racial abuse and that he then joined his son by taking part in the subsequent incident."

Mr Anthony Cartin, representing the 23-year-old son, who was of previous good character, said: "He is thoroughly ashamed of his actions."

Mr Tom Kenning, defending the father, added: "The passengers were locked in the taxi for six minutes during which the two young women suffered panic attacks and became upset and this appears to have been the catalyst, but it is no excuse."

The father and son, both from Roundhills Road, Hurst Green, Halesowen, each admitted racially aggravated assault. The former was given an 18-month jail sentence suspended for 18 months with 180 hours unpaid work. His son was given a 16-month suspended sentence with 150 hours unpaid work.

They must pay £300 and £200 compensation respectively to the victim.

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# Carer Keeley saves man from choking

A QUICK-THINKING carer put her life-saving skills to the test to stop a man from choking to death.

Keeley Fowkes, aged 22, used her newly-gained emergency first aid skills to the test when she saved Martin Pearson, who was in her care, from choking.

Keeley, who works at Oak House Care Home, in Netherton, was on a short holiday with fellow staff members and two of their service users when disaster struck.

They had gone out for dinner one evening, when Martin started to choke on his food. Keeley's quick reactions helped to save the life of Mr Pearson, who has learning disabilities.

She had only completed her basic life support training, with Endeavour Care Training, weeks before the life-threatening situation. Ms Fowkes, from Halesowen, said: "We were out to dinner, Martin ordered a well-done steak and, after taking a bite, tried to talk, breathing the steak to the back of this throat. Initially we didn't think too much of it and tried to wash it down with water, but he started panicking and his lips turned blue. All the training just came to me in that moment and I was able to perform the techniques we were taught in order to dislodge the food.

"It was very frightening, but I think the adrenaline just kicked in." Mr



Resident Martin Pearson, with carer Keeley Fowkes who saved his life

Pearson, although able to work full-time, depends on the support at the care home.

He said: "I'm just so grateful to Keeley. She knew exactly what to do to help me. I genuinely thought I was going to die."

In recognition for her quick and decisive actions, Keeley was presented

with an award by Endeavour Care Training.

Adam and Dominic Brinton-Williams, Oak House owners, said: "It's a privilege knowing you've got staff like Keeley, she's remarkable, and fantastic with our service users.

"And that goes for all our wonderful team, we are very proud indeed."

# Team to block cold calls

THE power to block cold calls from scammers is in the hands of Dudley residents most at risk.

As part of a crackdown to wipe out financial cons in the Dudley borough, a scams unit has been set up by the council's Trading Standards.

It is primarily working with vulnerable residents who often find themselves on so-called 'sucker lists' which are used by criminals to identify and prey on their victims. As part of its work the team is going into homes

of vulnerable people who regularly receive cold calls from scammers and installing call blockers temporarily.

This means that every time a call is received, the resident can press a large red button and that number is blocked and unable to call again.

Evidence shows that within a three-month period, the cold calling stops and the potential victim essentially disappears from the 'sucker lists'.

Councillor Ruth Buttery, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "It's a big job but with incentives such as call blockers, we are helping

to prevent older people being targeted. Since the scams unit launched more than five months ago, its staff have already visited more than 50 residents who have been targeted by scammers.

"It has recovered more than £17,000 for victims and is investigating cases that amount to at least £350,000 in losses," Councillor Buttery added.

If anyone is concerned that they or someone they know may have fallen victim to financial scams, they should contact the Trading Standards' scams team on 01384 818871 or via tradingstandards@dudley.gov.uk

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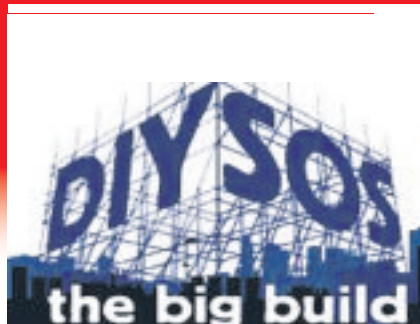
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# All traces of Goodyear are now almost gone forever

**IT is well and truly the end of an era as demolition work on the iconic Goodyear factory buildings nears completion.**

The closure of the plant in Bushbury Lane and Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, was announced in 2015 after years of scaling down, resulting in the loss of 330 jobs.

The decision was a huge blow and more than a 1,000 people signed a petition calling for it to be saved. It finally shut in August 2017 and has since been reduced to rubble, making way for homes.

## Festival will offer food for thought

A MINI food festival heads to the Black Country over the Bank Holiday weekend.

The mini food festival takes place at the Red House Glass Cone, in Wordsley, between 11am and 6pm on August 25 and 26.

On offer for all the family will be open craft studios and food offerings including burgers, hot dogs, Thai, Italian, Indian and homemade preserves. People will also be able to enjoy a tippie or two including a Prosecco bar, beer and gin.

Entry is free, but fees may apply for some activities.

Councillor Ian Kettle, Dudley Council's cabinet member for tourism, said: "This is a great day out for all of the family, with tempting treats for everyone. There will be food available to suit all tastes."

Cyril Barrett, chairman of the Unite branch at Goodyear, said it was the 'end of an era'.

He said: "It really is very sad, it's heartbreaking, to see what happened. It has been the break-up of the biggest family in Wolverhampton and the Black Country – the biggest, kindest family has been destroyed."

### Shame

Former worker Wayne Devaney, from Wednesfield, said: "I drove down that way a couple of times and have seen the buildings taken down bit by bit," he said. "It's a real crying shame. My wife tells me not to cry but it was a big part of my life for 28 years."

"The whole operation was fantastic, and at the end of the day, I know Goodyear upped sticks but ultimately they gave me 28 great years."

People living near site have watched on as the final brickwork is torn down for good. There were mixed reactions on social media after photographs of the final buildings being torn down were published.

Facebook user Gillian Nicholls said: "So many local people worked there. I think it's very sad"

All traces of the old factory should be gone before the end of the year.



One of the few remaining buildings on the old site



Demolition crews at the site



All traces of what remains will be gone by the year's end

## Legacy the perfect tonic for patients

CRITICALLY ill patients and those who have suffered a stroke will benefit from two generous donations to a hospital made by former Goodyear workers.

A Bioquell Isolation Pod has been installed at Russells Hall Hospital thanks to a £28,000 grant from the 5/344 Transport and General Work-

ers Union Benevolent Fund Trustees have also handed over £9,190 to pay for improvements to the stroke unit therapy room, including the purchase of a state-of-the-art reminiscence interactive therapy unit for patients to utilise.

Members of the benevolent fund, including chairman of the trustees

Cyril Barrett, Simon Terry and Arvin-der Hothi, visited the hospital to see how their money would benefit patients in the future.

They met staff from the critical care unit along with the hospital's director of operations Karen Kelly, who said: "The pod is such an amazing addition to our critical care unit."

## Rhyme time at museum with Dave the poet

THE Black Country Living Museum's poet in residence, Dave Reeves, will be helping people find their muse when he takes a poetry writing workshop next month.

The Tipton Road attraction will be the venue for the event on September 29. A museum spokesman said it would "draw on the built environment of the museum and delve into your own experiences".

The spokesman added: "In a warm and supportive atmosphere, and using a variety of writing forms, Dave will guide you through a day of concentrated but fun writing, and will help you to look at your work from new perspectives and, perhaps, unexpected angles. The workshop is suitable for both beginners and those with writing experience."

Dave has held many writing residencies around the Midlands and was Literature Development Officer for Sandwell Libraries. He is currently involved with the Back in 10 project at the museum, as one of five artists presenting performances in different locations across the site every Friday.

The next takes place tomorrow in Old Birmingham Road, set in the 1930s.

Back in 10 is part of BCLM's Summer Evenings programme: £5 entry after 4pm.

## Talk series opened by ex-Test skipper

FORMER England cricket captain Ted Dexter will open a programme of talks.

The 83-year-old batsman will be visiting the pavilion at Stourbridge Cricket Club on October 18 at 7.30pm.

The opening night is limited to Stourbridge and District Cricket Society members and their guests.

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Two episodes of Coronation Street were filmed at the Manchester store. Cousins also furnished Carla's apartment



An episode of Top Gear involving Richard Hammond was filmed in the car park at the Birmingham store



Robert Shotton, Founder, met Prince Charles after carpeting the Help the Heroes family room at QE Hospital, Birmingham



# Ashley in £90m deal buyout of store firm

THE fate of Birmingham's former Rackhams store lies in the hands of tracksuit tycoon Mike Ashley after his Sports Direct business bought House of Fraser for £90 million.

The department store's 700 staff, and nearly 16,000 more at branches up and down the country, are now waiting to discover what Mr Ashley has planned for them.

Stores, including Beatties, delayed opening until 11am yesterday as workers were briefed about the takeover, but it is understood they have been told nothing about the future of their branches.

John Spellar, Labour MP for Warley, said Midlands stores should only be closed if there is no other option: "I hope every endeavour is taking to keep them running as a going concern and it is not just a slash and burn, to keep it's position in town centres in the interests of shoppers and staff."

Wednesbury businessman Ninder Johal, a board member at the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and former Black Country Chamber of Commerce president, said the move by Mr Ashley provided hope for stores which had previously been written off.

Rackhams in Corporation Street and another 30 of House of Fraser's 59 stores had looked doomed to close this Christmas under a rescue deal called a CVA, or company voluntary arrangement, that was intended to bail out the rest of the business.

## Transferred

But that deal collapsed and management put House of Fraser into the hands of administrators from accountancy giant EY yesterday. They then struck the deal with Mr Ashley.

Around 5,900 people work for House of Fraser and another 10,100 at concessions within stores. Staff have all been transferred to Sports Direct.

Around 6,000 work at the 31 stores that had been set for closure, including nearly 280 at the Beatties store in Wolverhampton, 150 work at Telford and 80 at Shrewsbury. The deal was struck through a pre-pack administration process, where a company is put into administration before a new buyer cherry picks the best assets.

There was some surprise that Mr Ashley bought all the stores, rather than just the 28 top performers identified by House of Fraser management in the aborted CVA rescue plan. It remains unclear whether he has his own plans to keep all the stores open, or if he and his management team are currently drawing up their own list of closures.

The tycoon beat off competition from retail rival Philip Day, the billionaire owner of Edinburgh Woollen Mill.

Sources said that Mr Ashley will now begin the process of turning some House of Fraser stores into Sports Direct outlets and rebrand others under his Flannels luxury fascia.

# Dogs are sought for lead as Toto

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre is looking for a dog to play the role of Toto in its Christmas production of The Wizard of Oz. Open Auditions will be held at The REP on Centenary Square on Saturday, August 25 from 10am to 5pm.

The role of Toto, Dorothy's canine companion, in The Wizard of Oz is a pivotal one and The REP is looking for a new canine star to join the company over Christmas.

The show runs from November 24 to January 13 and The REP is looking for two small dogs that have the enthusiasm and stamina to play the role over the seven-week run. No previous acting or stage experience is required, but good training and obedience is.

Director Liam Steel said: "This is the perfect opportunity to find talented, local pooches to tread the boards in one of the biggest festive productions in the city. We're not looking for 'prima-doggas', just raw canine talent."

Register an interest by emailing dogauditions@birmingham-rep.co.uk and attaching a picture.

All owners and dogs must be available for the open auditions on August 25 and a follow up audition on September 8.

# It's all aboard for changes on the buses

A MAJOR shake-up of bus routes and timetables will see services carved up across Dudley and Sandwell.

National Express has unveiled a raft of new timetables which come into effect on September 2. The changes to 29 services will see some routes axed to make way for new buses, while commuters will see changes brought in to other existing services.

Changes will be made to the 4H service through Hayley Green and Halesowen to Walsall, with a new timetable during the evenings and on Sundays. Route 9, from Stourbridge to Birmingham via Halesowen, will see buses run up to every five minutes along Hagley Road between Quinton and Birmingham.

The National Express route 13 from Dudley to Walsall will now be known as the 11A, while timetable changes will be made to 27, 27A and 82. Routes 120, 121 and 120 A will be replaced

## Report by Annabal Bagdi

with four new, modified routes for West Bromwich and Oldbury.

Buses will run up to every 15 minutes between the town and Blackheath, and every 30 minutes to Merry Hill. Rowley Regis Hospital will no longer be served by the 3 service but the 4M service will continue to stop at the hospital, running up to every 20 minutes.

The new X7 will offer an express service from Dudley to Birmingham, with platinum buse-switch fast links from City Hospital to Oldbury, Dudley and Wolverhampton. The new X8 service will see buses run up to every 20 minutes between Dudley, Springfield, Blackheath and Birmingham.

Passengers will see the current 127 service, replaced with new, modified routes – with the

13A running from Blackheath to Birmingham via Brandhall and Warley and the 14 running from Dudley to Halesowen via Blackheath. Route 128 will change to the 13 service, with more buses from Warley to Oldbury every 20 minutes. The 13B service will replace the current 129 route between Birmingham and Blackheath, but the route between Blackheath and Merry Hill will no longer be served by National Express. Diamond Bus' 24 service will instead serve this route.

The current 140 service will be replaced with the new X8 route, with fewer stops between Quinton and Birmingham to reduce journey times. Low customer demand means the current 205 from Dudley to Kingswinford – which will be known as 5 – will operate only every hour, with a service approximately every 30 minutes between Russells Hall Hospital and Pensnett. Residents will be able to use the 2

and 2A services instead of the current 222 to travel between Dudley and Merry Hill, with a new stops along Dudley Road and Wallows Road in Brierley Hill.

The 14 from Dudley to Halesowen via Blackheath will replace the 241, which will mean buses will no longer link Springfield and Halesowen.

Route 243 will be known as 18, 244 as 19, 246 as 6, 255 and 255A as 15 and 15A, 256 as 16, 257 as 17, 276 as 7 and X96 as 8.

There will be no changes to the routes or timetables, except for minor changes to the timetable for the 7 service.

National Express said residents will see its route 289 replaced with the new 3 and 3A services from West Bromwich, while the X10 route will have changes to its timetable as the route is extended from Merry Hill to Gornal Wood via Brierley Hill and Russells Hall Hospital.

# Town to remember hero Sgt Colley, 100 years on

## Report by Fiona Armstrong

**A PARADE and service will be held in Smethwick for First World War Victoria Cross recipient Sergeant Harold Colley – 100 years to the day since his heroic sacrifice on the Western Front.**

Everyone is welcome to join the event on Saturday 25 August at Victoria Park, Smethwick, where a commemorative paving stone will be unveiled in Sergeant Colley's memory.

The event runs from 10am to 11.30am, with the parade in the park starting at 10.30am and a service at 11am. The event is being co-ordinated by the Royal British Legion and Sandwell Council.

Sergeant Colley – who was living in Cheshire Road, Smethwick, when he joined the Army – was killed defending against a German attack at Martinpuich, France, on August 25, 1918.

He is the last of the three Sandwell-born Victoria Cross recipients from the Great War to be honoured with one of the Government's commemorative VC paving stones. Colley was also posthumously awarded the Military Medal for his bravery under fire earlier in 1918.

## Wrought

Smethwick Heritage Centre will be open for the event, where people can find out more about Sergeant Colley's life and service. The centre will also provide refreshments after the service.

Sergeant Colley's great nephew Ian West, who will be attending the service, said: "We are very pleased that Smethwick is remembering a local lad wrought of the iron, stone and coal of the Black Country who, before he was 25, gave his life for England in a war not of his making."

"He showed this grit enough to win both the Military Medal and the Victoria Cross, but he should be remembered as a representative of all those who died in those dark days. It is sad that my Uncle Norman, who did more than anyone to keep Harold's memory alive, did not himself live to see this day."

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "Sergeant Colley was a brave son of Smethwick who paid the ultimate price for our country and, like so many others, did not return home. This service and the commemorative stone at Victoria Park will help ensure his story and his sacrifice are remembered by people in Smethwick now and by future generations."



Sgt Harold Colley, who died during a German attack in France on August 25, 1918

Councillor Steve Melia, chair of the Sandwell Armed Forces and Veterans Parades' Committee, said: "We are very proud to be supporting this special event for Sergeant Colley. These parades and services are important as we commemorate military events from the past and show our support for our Armed Forces today. We will also be honouring the fallen of the Great War when we mark the centenary of the end of the war in November with services and

parades across Sandwell." Harold John Colley was born in Winson Street and attended Dudley Road Council School. He worked at Henry Pooley & Sons and then at J & R Griffin Ltd, a silversmiths in Hockley Street, where he became a silver spinner.

He was a member of Smethwick Baptist Church in Regent Street. He was wicket-keeper for the church's Mission Cricket Eleven.

He was also a notable gymnast and an active

member of the Smethwick Crescent Wheelers Cycling Club.

He joined up on 1 September 1914 as a private with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. He started out with the Army Cyclist Corps. In the early months of the war these cyclists were used as advance cavalry armed with Lewis guns and organised in small groups. He then moved on to become a despatch rider.

In March 1917, Colley was wounded while digging out two men buried by a mortar bomb, while under heavy fire.

He was promoted to Lance-Corporal and received a certificate of Meritorious Conduct for his actions following a despatch by Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig on April 9, where his "gallant and distinguished services in the field" were praised. He was sent back to England for treatment. After his recuperation, he was transferred to the 10th Lancashire Fusiliers.

Colley was awarded the Military Medal for his actions at Beaumont Hamel on June 4, 1918. At 2.30am the Germans bombarded the front of the 52nd Brigade and then at 2.40am attacked with infantry. The 10th Lancashire Fusiliers and the 7th Yorkshire Regiment bore the brunt of this attack with the Germans making good use of their old trench positions to break into the Fusiliers' front lines.

## Promoted

They managed to overwhelm the left flank but on the right they were met with vigorous Lewis gun fire. The sergeant and four other men were wounded but Colley took two men with him and bombed the nearest trench, succeeding in ejecting the intruders at 2.50am.

A good many casualties were inflicted on the enemy but the battalion lost an officer and 12 men killed, 21 men wounded and two officers and 13 other ranks missing. For this action, Colley was promoted to the rank of Acting Sergeant. The deed for which he was awarded his VC took place at Martinpuich. During a strong counter-attack, Sergeant Colley's company was holding an advanced position with two platoons in advance and two in support.

The forward platoons were ordered to hold on at all costs and Sergeant Colley went, without orders, to help these two platoons. He rallied the men, then formed a defensive flank and held it, although out of the two platoons only three men remained unwounded and the sergeant himself was dangerously wounded and died the same day.

He is buried in Maily Wood Cemetery near Albert in France. His medals are held in the Fusilier Museum, Bury, Lancashire. For details on how Sandwell is commemorating the centenary of the end of the war, go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/firstworldwar100](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/firstworldwar100) webpage.

# Repair works to M5 stretch delayed due to heatwave

WORK to repair a stretch of a busy Black Country motorway has been delayed by six months – because of the weather.

Bosses at Highways England have said the recent scorching temperatures mean the mammoth project at the Oldbury Viaduct has been held up by half a year.

Waterproofing and repairs between junctions 1 and 2 on the M5 have been ongoing since April 2017, with an initial finishing date of autumn this year.

But now the date has been pushed back dramatically. Workers hope to finish 'as soon as possible' in 2019, but cannot give a definitive date. Highways England spokesman James Wildman said one of the

main reasons for the delay was the recent hot spell.

He said: "The weather has slowed us down. For example, waterproofing cannot be applied in temperatures over around 30°C."

## Essential

"In recent weeks the surface temperature on the viaduct has been around 40°C in the daytime and so waterproofing material has had to be applied overnight."

He added: "The work we are doing to repair the M5 Oldbury Viaduct is absolutely essential if drivers are to continue using it for years to come."

"We're committed to completing the work as quickly and as safely as possible and we're doing all

we can to reduce disruption to motorists, businesses and residents."

Mr Wildman added: "With the problems we have encountered in recent months we are aiming to finish the main repair work as soon as we can in 2019."

Meanwhile, talk about fast food! An Uber Eats takeaway delivery cyclist was spotted making their way along the busy M5 in Oldbury.

Firefighters expressed their shock after he pedalled through the busy Oldbury Viaduct roadworks section. The cyclist was captured at around 11.25am on Tuesday by Oldbury firefighters who branded it 'motorway madness'.

Uber said it was investigating.



Uber Eats cyclist on M5



# Iron Maiden tour kicks off with football game

**ROCK** royalty Steve Harris slipped on his football boots as the Iron Maiden founder flaunted his football skills in the Black Country.

The heavy metal star took part in a special match against Gornal Athletic FC. Fans were left dazzled by the legendary musician's moves when he took to the club's Garden Walk pitch to raise funds for the club. It is the second time Harris, the bassist and primary songwriter, has played there.

The 62-year-old regularly gets sides together to take on local clubs across the world during Iron Maiden's tours.

Club chairman Lee Farrington, said: "It's a big thing to have him down here and it's great to have people giving back to small football clubs in need of support."

## Drink

"Grassroots teams are struggling for funds and every little helps. It will help keep us afloat for another year."

Harris, who founded the heavy metal band in the 1970s, united for the fundraiser with members of Iron Maiden's backroom staff and ex-Scotland international footballer Colin Hendry, who was captain.

The band were in the Midlands to play a gig at the Genting Arena in Birmingham and are currently on a world tour.

The football saw a mixed-age team from the Dudley club compete against an 'Iron Maiden XI', with Harris's supergroup strolling away from the field with a 4-0 win.

Award-winning Harris made time to take snaps with fellow footballers and enjoy a well-earned drink at the end.



Steve Harris from Iron Maiden



Colin Hendry played in the game



The Iron Maiden XI with the players from Gornal Athletic

It was not the first time he had lent his support to the Gornal footballers, with the rocker offering to help gather cash for the club and playing against them previously.

Mr Farrington added: "Steve was more than happy to be here, he did the same thing a couple years ago so he knows Gornal already so it's brilliant."

"He loves his football so we're more than happy to accommodate him."

Gornal Athletic, who play in the West Midlands Regional League, organised the fundraiser ahead of its 2018/19 campaign. Tweeting after the match Iron Maiden said: "A 4-0 win for the mighty Maiden! Thanks Gornal Athletic for a great game."

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## Incendiary device from war in loft

A SECOND World War ordnance has been found in a loft of a home in Cradley Heath. Emergency services and a bomb disposal team rushed to the scene in Mogul Lane, shortly after 3pm on Thursday.

Officers from West Midlands Police joined forces with The Royal Logistic Corps and Dudley Council at the scene following the discovery. The ordnance was confirmed inactive and removed by the team of experts.

Black Country historian Stephen Richards said he thought the object found was a German incendiary bomb known as a B1E.

Mr Richards, author of The Luftwaffe over Brum, said: "There were numerous types of incendiary bomb. The most prolific were of two basically similar types – the B1E (Brandbomb, 1kg Elektron) and a derivative fitted with a small explosive charge, the B1E-ZA. Incendiaries of both types utilised magnesium and were dropped in containers known as the BSK 36 which, as the designation implies, carried 36 1kg bombs.

"After leaving the aircraft the container opened in mid-air to disgorge its contents. Some incendiaries were fitted with a seven-minute delay fuse intended to deter interference by civil defence personnel."

It is the second incident involving the discovery of a Second World War object in the area in just a matter of months. Bomb disposal experts were called in earlier this year after a Second World War grenade was found in Cradley Heath garage.

A police cordon was put in place and residents were advised to leave their homes around Hillbank Road and Furlong Lane.



Police officers and a bomb disposal team at the scene



Part of the ordnance found, believed to be used by the Luftwaffe

# Player dies of same brain disease as Astle

THE daughter of Jeff Astle hopes confirmation a second footballer has died from a debilitating brain disease will give greater impetus to investigating the issue.

It has now been reported that Rod Taylor, a former wing-half with Portsmouth, Gillingham and Bournemouth, died in April having suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, which is a form of dementia.

He is the second player to have been diagnosed with CTE after Astle, the former West Brom striker, who died in 2002. CTE, which affects behaviour and memory, is caused by repeated head trauma.

Dawn Astle has long campaigned for the game to investigate possible links between CTE and the heading of footballs, particularly the old-style heavy type used during her father's career.

### Angry

The Professional Footballers' Association and the Football Association did initiate research last year but Dawn feels it has taken far too long.

She said: "This is fact now. We are not just assuming other players may have died of the same illness as dad, this is now fact. I still get really angry about it because this is what the coroner said all those years ago in 2002. It's as if what the coroner said didn't matter to football. Football did nothing."

"That the research has now started – 16 years after Her Majesty's coroner said my dad died due to repeated heading of footballs is shameful. This isn't a knock you have in a game, a metatarsal or arthritis.

"These people are dying and football



Dawn Astle, who says recognition of the problem has taken too long

didn't want to know. We need to keep fighting, keep pressing to make sure the footballing authorities sit up and listen."

CTE can only be definitively diagnosed after death and if the family agree to donate the brain for research.

This decision was taken by the family of Taylor, who was 74 when he died, earlier this year. Dawn said she recognised how distressing the situation could be but hoped other families would consider donating.

Dawn, who along with other family members set up the Jeff Astle Foundation in 2015, said: "I know how dif-



Jeff Astle, in action, who was one of the greatest at heading the ball in the game

ficult it is but if we hadn't donated and done what we did with my dad, we'd never have known this. It shows the importance of brain donation. If this goes on to save thousands of lives, that is the only good thing that will come of it now.

A statement from the PFA said: "The PFA wishes to note that it is and always has been committed to a duty of care for all past, current and future members."

It added: "Following two years of research and development, in November 2017 the PFA and the FA commissioned an evidence-based study."



Greenery among the colourful blooming bedding plants



The children's swing for the grandkids



Dennis tends to some of his plants in his lovely garden



Some of the taller plants in front of a sectioned off part with a trellis



Rose bushes on display by the path



A riot of colour as Dennis shows off the fruits of his labour

# Determined Dennis digs in

OLDBURY resident Dennis Amos has been reaping the rewards of his hard work after his beloved garden bloomed for summer.

The former self-employed builder, aged 73, has persevered through potentially hugely-damaging spells of weather throughout the year

From the early year cold spell to

the complete opposite more recently with the extremely hot temperatures, he has managed to produce a garden which visitors have described as 'immaculate'.

### Variation

With 30 varieties of plants, 32 hanging baskets and 31 pots and cups, the garden is certainly not short of variation, putting on a display of plants ranging from geraniums and petunias, to marigolds and

mirabelles. Specialist features of the garden include four different types of sunflower and red, white and blue sweet peas in celebration of the recent royal wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle back in May.

The garden attracts many visitors who marvel at its beauty.

Mr Amos, who has been a passionate gardener for four years, credits his successes to 'hard work', working up to eight hours a day on the gar-

den, some days from 5am to 9pm, through rain, wind or shine.

He added: "At the end of the day it makes me happy, it makes other people happy and really is what it is all about."

As a nature enthusiast who prefers the calm chirp of birds to the noise of the road, Mr Amos is particularly appreciative of the various wildlife that flock to his garden.

Regular visitors include song thrushes, sparrows, squirrels and

insects, which he takes great enjoyment in capturing on camera.

But he has also had to take the measure of installing two scarecrows, Bert and Holly, to prevent the wild-life feeding on his hard work.

Mr Amos has also been lucky enough to have had the support of his children during the course of the year – Steven, Simon and Louise – and his four young grandchildren – Jessica, Emily, Natalie and Daniel – who have also lent a helping hand.

## Brakes are put on velodrome bid for Games

THE Black Country faces a Commonwealth Games snub with hopes appearing dashed of hosting cycling events and the building of a multi-million pound velodrome.

Birmingham 2022 organisers have committed to hosting track and road cycling as part of the 2022 games – on the London Olympic velodrome 130 miles away.

Almost 5,000 people have signed a petition calling on organisers to reconsider and demand the Black Country is made part of wider cycling competition programme.

Wolverhampton has been called on to bid to host road cycling events with its historic links to the first-ever race on public streets in the city more than 70 years ago.

Cycling legend Percy Stallard defied the then-national body, the NCU, to hold the road race from Llangollen finishing in Wolverhampton's West Park on June 7, 1942.

David Viner, who is a trustee of Halesowen Cycling Club, has helped galvanise support for the campaign to widen its scope.

Wolverhampton cycling legend Hugh Porter is also lending his support.

### Building

Colleagues have helped design a route which would showcase the area such as Wolverhampton city centre, Wightwick Manor, Himley House, Dudley Castle, The Black Country Living Museum in addition to Bridgnorth and countryside of the Severn Valley.

He would also like organisers to still consider building a smaller training velodrome to allow competitors to training in the Midlands ahead of the games.

Mr Viner said: "As the Tour de France and many other major cycle races have demonstrated there is no better way of advertising the finest features of a region than TV covering a cycle road race.

"The cycle road races will provide the perfect opportunity for the public to witness a major part of the Commonwealth Games passing through their communities." However it is believed that Coventry and Warwick is thought to be the front-runner to host road-racing as part of the games

Anyone wishing to back the campaign can sign at [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) and search for 'West Midlands velodrome'.





PAUL KING,  
Head of April  
King Legal

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Reg Keirle celebrates playing for 50 years at The Trumpet in Bilston



Reg with Dave Holmes who played with Tommy Burton



The Trumpet in Bilston, where Reg has been performing for 50 years



Reg performing at The Trumpet - circa 1985

# Reg still hits the right notes after five decades

A JAZZ musician who inspired one of Slade's biggest hits has celebrated performing for 50 years at a Black Country pub.

Reginald Andrew Keirle, known as 'Reg' or 'Keirley', started playing piano at The Trumpet, in High Street, Bilston, in the summer of 1968.

The pianist was the inspiration behind one of Slade's biggest hits - Skweeze Me Pleeze Me - after Jim Lea and Don Powell saw him perform on a Sunday night, according to Powell's Look What I Dun autobiography.

Friends and family gathered around Mr Keirle to celebrate the 82-year old's legacy at the pub.

Mr Keirle said: "It was a complete surprise to me. I thought it would be an ordinary Monday night but it was great."

"Usually, you only get half a dozen in and when I went in it was packed."

"Musicians, old friends of mine

## MEMORY LANE

By Thomas Parkes

were there - they've all become nice friends."

Reg started performing at the pub after watching Wolverhampton artist Tommy Burton and Dave Holmes - who was the first drummer to play at The Trumpet.

Reg has played for free at the pub ever since a fateful Monday night.

He added: "Tommy Burton was playing there and I went down to hear him and then I took over when he left and in the early days I was doing everything - including painting the walls just to get it going."

"It was only three, four nights a week but when a landlord came he was determined to have jazz on every night of the week."

"It was good and I played there on Friday once a week and there's one week night - on Monday - and hardly anybody came along so I did it for

nothing and I've been doing it ever since."

The 82-year old said he still couldn't make 'sense' of music, but said he played 'by ear', adding: "We had a piano at home and as a kid I used to pick out the odd tune."

Reg said he preferred 'traditional jazz' which he could sing along to.

He said: "I like traditional jazz in the style and songs as well - I like singing swing numbers."

"I sing what I can play. If I can't play it I don't sing it. I just play by ear."

Mr Keirle's other job was as a commercial artist at The Express & Star.

Reg, who was born in Waterloo Road in Wolverhampton, now lives in Redditch with his wife Linda Clement Keirle and still performs at The Trumpet every Monday night.

He said: "Every Monday night I'm there at about 9.15am until 11.15pm."

"I like beer, that's my inspiration. I like the pub, the beer and I like playing the piano - that's good enough for me."



Reg as an art student in 1953, aged 18

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## Listen once more with The Feeling

The Feeling will perform their celebrated million-selling album *Twelve Stops And Home* when they hit the road for their first tour in two years.

It's been 12 years since the acclaimed album's release and the band will headline Birmingham Town Hall on October 22.

*Twelve Stops And Home* – named after the Piccadilly Line journey from Leicester Square to frontman's Dan Gillespie Sells' home stop of Bounds Green – was originally released on June 5, 2006.

Despite being largely self-recorded in the garden shed of Ciaran and Kevin Jeremiah's parents' Sussex home, the album was a hit-the-ground-running masterpiece of fiercely infectious, life-affirming pop, pitched in the rainbow-coloured realm between Queen, Scissor Sisters, ELO and Supertramp.

Five of the album's songs became hit singles (*Sewn*, *Fill My Little World*, *Never Be Lonely*, *Rose and Love It When You Call*), helping the band to become the most-played act on British radio in 2006, and earning them the Ivor Novello Award for Songwriters of the Year.

Dan says: "I'm so excited to be playing with the band again. To be performing an album that has always meant so much to me is going to be quite an experience. When we recorded it we were a bunch of lads working in a shed to create the kind of music we wanted to because we were doing what musicians do"

Red Lemons singer Jim Morris and guitarist Ian Willetts



## Soul with Lemon sauce

ONE of the most popular Black Country bands of the 1980s, the Red Lemon Electric Blues Band, are getting back together for another of their popular reunion concerts in the Black Country.

They will be bringing along special guests and original fans TV celebrities Adrian Chiles and Suzi Perry.

The Black Country raised sports presenters both were also briefly members of the group during the early days. Suzi, whose father Tony managed the band, used to dance on stage

with the group in the 1980s and Adrian, from Hagley, was briefly the bass player.

The Red Lemon Electric Blues Band, who built up a huge local following some 30 years ago, will play their 'spiritual home' with a gig at Stourbridge Town hall on September 29.

They formed in 1985 and became a hit playing Rhythm and Blues at their own headline gigs and supporting stars like Chuck Berry and Robert Plant.

They gained fans outside the Midlands, even outside the UK, by performing at jazz and blues festivals. They played at the Royal Albert Hall as guests of Mencap and played on the bill with reggae star Desmond Dekker.

In 1991 the band was invited by Chuck Berry to be special guests on his UK tour. They also played on the same bill as Robert Plant and became regulars at Ronnie Scott's Club, when the famous London jazz venue opened a branch on Birmingham's Broad Street. Whitesnake's Bernie Marsden even guested with the band in Birmingham.

The soul and rhythm and blues group first got back together in 2015 to celebrate the 30th anniversary.

Tickets cost £24 (plus booking fee) via 0844 844 0444, online from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) or from Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

## Festival date sees Busted make return

They've been conspicuous by their absence during a busy summer in which every weekend seems to bring a new festival.

Rather than appearing in fields and parks across the UK, Busted have been holed up in a studio creating their fourth album.

Singer-guitarist-drummer Charlie Simpson couldn't be more excited. He still finds it remarkable that the chart-topping band, who formed in 2000, still have only three records to their name.

Busted enjoyed two million-selling records during their first incarnation; the self-titled debut, which was four times platinum, and the 2003 follow-up, *A Present for Everyone*, three-times platinum. There followed a 10-year hiatus following their decision to split in 2005 and since then there's been just 2016's well-received *Night Driver*.

Charlie says: "We've been in the studio for the past few months doing the fourth record. But we've got a headline show at Solihull Summer Fest on August 26 and we're looking forward to that. Considering the weather we've had, if it carries on, it should be a lovely afternoon. We really look forward to these shows."

Solihull Summer Fest gives Busted the chance to dust away the cobwebs. They'll line up with Razorlight, Lightning Seeds, The Beat, the Sugarhill Gang and more at Tudor Grange Park on August 26. The previous day features 10CC, Sister Sledge, Blue, Alesha Dixon and Roland Gift.

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8th September

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14th September

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ONE MAN, ONE  
STAGE**  
20th September

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STARRING D-RAN  
D-RAN LIVE BAND**  
21st September

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MEMPHIS SONS**  
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## AT YOUR LEISURE

Jonny Penney with Rat on guitar



## Ned's duo added to bill as Shiiine moves venue

NED'S Atomic Dustbin bandmates Jonny Penney and Rat will perform at Shiiine On Festival in Birmingham.

The Stourbridge indie rockers will appear under the moniker Ned's Acoustic Dustbin at the one day event, which will now be hosted at the O2 Academy instead of the Genting Arena.

The duo join a line up of bands such as Orbital, Shed Seven, Embrace, Cast, and the Happy Mondays.

The event is also due to feature performances from Julian Cope, Reverend And The Makers, The Wedding present, A Certain Ratio, Glasvegas, and both members of Carter USM as Jim Bob plays solo and Les Fruitbat with his new project Abdoujaparov.

Also featuring on the bill is A Certain Ratio, Bentley Rhythm Ace, The Stairs, The Membranes, Thousand Yard Stare, Ivory Wave and Psyence. There will be DJ sets from BBC 6 Music's Steve Lamacq, Star Shaped, and Ocean Colour Scene's

Steve Cradock, as well as two after-show parties featuring Todd Terry, Marshall Jefferson and Jon Dasilva.

Shiiine On Festival takes place at Birmingham's O2 Academy at Horse Fair on September 8.

The doors will open at 2pm and the festival ends at 4am, with live music from 3 to 11pm, after-show parties start at 11pm.

For more information visit [www.shiiineon.com/one-day-festival](http://www.shiiineon.com/one-day-festival) and the organisers have apologised for any inconvenience caused by the change of venue.

## Comic Wayne joins Black Country Night Out crew

One of the longest running shows on the entertainment circuit, A Black Country Night Out, returns this autumn with the addition of a young comedian from Dudley.

Over the years it has starred some of the truly great local entertainers such as Aynuk & Ayli, Tommy Mundon, Dolly Allen and Giggetty.

### VETERAN

Most recently the show lost one of its most popular acts due to the death of veteran comedian Ian 'Sludge' Lees.

Ever the professional and despite illness 'Sludge' helped pick the comic to join the cast, one of the

Black Country's most popular comedians and MCs, Wayne Beese.

The heritage of the Black Country Night Out carries on with a show full of talented entertainers.

Show regulars Dandy, husband and wife duo Alan and Glyn, are back as are the band behind the Black Country Anthem, The Empty Can.

Alongside Wayne, new regular faces will include comic and former rock drummer Ollie Spencer, plus Joe Thomas singing the songs of 1940s favourite George Formby.

Tour dates include Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on September 11, Bromsgrove's Artrix on October 3, Kidderminster Rose Theatre October 11, Cannock Prince of Wales October 17 and Walsall Forest Arts Centre on November 1.



Dudley's Wayne Beese

## There will be One Love for Marley man

The timeless reggae music of Bob Marley will be brought to life again when Mitchell Brunings brings Marley Reprised to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on September 15 and 16.

Mitchell, who took on the leading role in Birmingham Rep's production of the Marley musical One Love last year and performed Marley Reprised 2017, is returning to Brum for a second year.

It will give fans a unique opportunity for a full evening of reggae legend Bob Marley's greatest hits, with Mitchell's soulful voice so very close to those rich Marley tones.

Due to sell out shows last year, two dates have been added for the 2018 return.

Surinam-born Brunings was catapulted into the limelight in August 2013 with his version of Marley's Redemption Son when he participated in The Voice Of Holland TV show. Nearly winning the competition as runner-up, Mitchell's YouTube videos kept him in the limelight and brought him into contact with the Marley family.

## Toto recall as Rep seek a Wizard canine star

Birmingham Repertory Theatre are looking for a dog to play the role of Toto in their Christmas production of The Wizard of Oz.

Open auditions will be held at The Rep on Centenary Square on Saturday, August 25, from 10am to 5pm. The role Dorothy's canine companion is a pivotal one and The Rep is looking for a canine star to join the company. The show runs from November 24 to January 13.

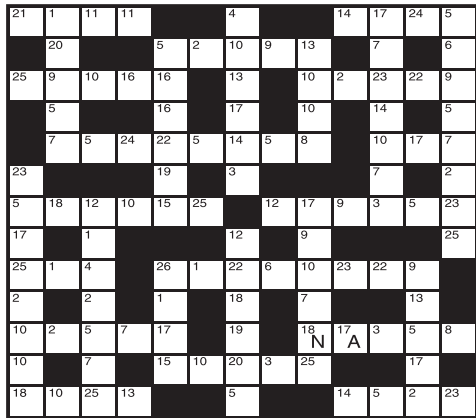
The Rep is looking for two small dogs that have the enthusiasm and stamina to share the role over the seven-week run. No previous acting or stage experience is required, but good training and obedience will be. Directed by Liam Steel, this stage version of the legendary MGM musical features all the classic songs including Somewhere Over The Rainbow and If I Only Had A Brain.

If you think your dog has what it takes, email [dogauditions@birmingham-rep.co.uk](mailto:dogauditions@birmingham-rep.co.uk) and attaching a picture (max size 2mb). All owners and dogs must be available for auditions on August 25 and on September 5.



## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	U	T	Z	F	C	X	D	N	K	V	R	E	Y
14	S	G	P	A	I	B	W	J	L	H	M	O	Q

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues:

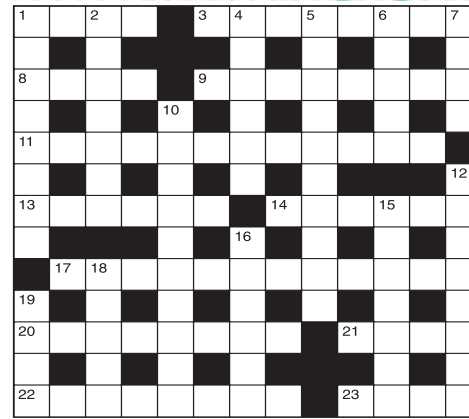
#### Across

- A good song? (4)
- Possibly greets an N.C.O. (8)
- A convict returning for a festive occasion (4)
- In a convent it gives preferential treatment (8)
- Service providing overhead savings for those in deep water (3,3,6)
- A fair fighter? (6)
- Sets out an increase in salary, we hear (6)
- In sound condition, though possibly highly strung (3,2,1,6)
- Ugly in an awkward way (8)
- One has a lot of fun with it! (4)
- Set off for school in time (8)
- A worker's cards? (4)

#### Down

- Celebrated form of mahogany (8)
- Fever may produce first-class alarm (7)
- Of which Shakespeare wrote a comedy (6)
- A healthy breed of rolling stock (5,5)
- What one says when taking French leave? (5)
- Trifles – child's play really (4)
- Road notice, perhaps, a job for a painter (10)
- A desert's transformation vindicated (8)
- Literary supplements? (7)
- One way take battle formation (6)
- Used in transporting other metals besides gold (5)
- A pound of tobacco? (4)

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17 A
5	18 N
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26



### Quick Clues:

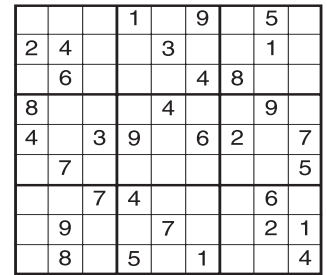
#### Across

- Mediocre (2-2)
- Ship's cargo list (8)
- Park (4)
- Talk (8)
- Characteristic (12)
- Anchorite (6)
- Peril (6)
- Loyalty (12)
- Schoolmasterly (8)
- Stupefy (4)
- Reduced (8)
- Kind (4)

#### Down

- Unswerving (8)
- Warrior (7)
- Quantity (6)
- Uniform (10)
- Merits (5)
- Row (4)
- Aid (10)
- Dignity (8)
- Immensely (7)
- Station (6)
- Sum (3,2)
- Hurried (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	5	9	6	7	2	1	4	8
6	8	4	5	9	1	3	2	7
2	1	7	4	8	3	6	5	9
7	9	2	3	1	5	4	8	6
4	6	8	7	2	9	5	3	1
5	3	1	8	4	6	7	9	2
9	4	5	2	6	7	8	1	3
8	2	6	1	3	4	9	7	5
1	7	3	9	5	8	2	6	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Obsolete; 9 Aramaic; 10 Blame; 11 Easel; 12 Precede; 13 Hoarse; 15 Grotto; 18 Learner; 20 Realm; 22 Frost; 23 Toughen; 24 Head the list. Down: 2 Beans; 3 Oracles; 4 Escape; 5 Cable; 6 Nearest; 7 Take the lift; 8 Development; 14 A la mode; 16 Rorqual; 17 Crutch; 19 Noted; 21 Ashes. QUICK - Across: 1 Dead certain; 9 Egotist; 10 Lever; 11 Overt; 12 Caption; 13 Steady; 15 Revert; 18 Regalia; 20 Totem; 22 Track; 23 Contain; 24 Bernard Shaw. Down: 2 Erode; 3 Drifted; 4 Entice; 5 Tulp; 6 Inevitable; 7 Demonstrate; 8 Bring to mind; 14 Engrave; 16 Extends; 17 Lancer; 19 Liken; 21 Tiara.

## Quiz

- Who played the title role in the 1995 film Batman Forever?
- Which European peninsula is named after the Turkish for 'mountains'?
- Which English philosopher was made a citizen of the French Republic in 1792?
- Of what type of bird is the condor a variety?
- Which flag is also known as Old Glory?
- Since the Common Market began in 1957,

- which language has had to be used at its press briefings?
- Which substances do Boyle's and Charles's laws concern?
- After which Norse god is Wednesday named?
- Which magazine coined the term 'nouvelle cuisine' in 1975?
- At which football ground did Eric Cantona attack a fan in 1995?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Islay; 2 Doncaster; 3 Thyroid; 4 Four; 5 Order; 6 Kinder Scout; 7 Alligator; 8 George du Maurier; 9 Henry VIII; 10 Electroplated nickel silver.

Niner: FRIGHTENS

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

126973  
921478  
571287

gives a lady,  
gives a second lady,  
gives a third lady.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

## COMMERCIAL FEATURE

# MUSICAL TREATS IN THE NEW WELLINGTON



**M**usical fans from across the region are rubbing their hands together for a musical extravaganza with Live Entertainment Friday and Saturday Night.

The New Wellington in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, is not only treating its patrons to great entertainment it is also a great place to eat, drink and socialise.

Set on the main Stourbridge to Dudley Road, not far off Brierley Hill high street, the venue offers a carvery all day everyday from 12 noon to 8pm with a selected main menu from 5pm. With Kids eating Free throughout the school holidays. T's & C's apply

For the early started amongst us they also offer a buffet style all you can eat breakfast from 8am to 11am, which has been brought back by popular demand.

The New Wellington also offers a Disco and Karaoke every Friday night, So why not come down and have a sing along!!

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The New Wellington, 383 Brettell Lane,  
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**Maxwell Quandri**

**Sat 18/08**  
**The Sunshine Band**

**Fri 24/08**  
**The Dynamix**

**Sat 25/08**  
**Izzy the Push**



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## DIGITAL



**9.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. **11.30** Nadiya's Family Favourites. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Birmingham Grand Prix. Live coverage of the 12th round of the Diamond League season. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Wedding Day Winners.

**6.15 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out.** The duo embark on their first adventure, taking a trip to the moon when their cheese supplies run out. Bafta-winning animation, with the voice of Peter Sallis. (R)

**6.40 BBC News.**

**6.50 Regional Programme.**

**7.00 Impossible Celebrities.** New series. Star-studded version of the quiz in which contestants compete for the chance to win £10,000, with a single 'impossible' answer knocking them out. Rick Edwards hosts.

**7.15 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong quizzes eight writers – including Farrell, 50 Cent, Kennedy, Kathy Lett, Kate Mosse, Benjamin Zephaniah, Roger McGough, Terry Deary and Bryony Gordon. (R)

**8.40 Casualty.** The fall-out from the recent tragedy affects the whole department, and Iain confesses to Jan that he could have prevented it from happening but did not. His tormented conscience is picked up by an encounter with an internet prankster who has had a similar experience of failing to avert a disaster. Dylan is reunited with Ciara, who is struggling to control both her own alcoholism and that of a friend whom she has persuaded to go cold turkey, resulting in a potentially shocking twist to her system.

**9.30 Mrs Brown's Bos.** Agnès tries to persuade the health visitor Grandad is in need of respite care – so she can go on holiday – and receives ominous news from beyond the grave from her late husband. (R)

**10.00 BBC News;** Weather; National Lottery Update.

**10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights from the Premier League.

**11.45 The Rugby Codebreakers.** Carolyn Hilt presents a look at the World Rugby players during the 100-year amateur era.

**12.45** Weather for the Week Ahead.

**12.50** BBC News.

**7.35** **Marrying Mum and Dad.** **7.05** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. (R)  
**7.35** **The Dengineers.** **8.05** **Deadly Dinosaurs** with Steve Backshall. **8.35** **Dad Attenuborough's Natural Curiosities.** **8.55** **Nature's Miracle Babies.** (R) **10.00** **Natural World.** (R) **11.00** **Miniature Britain.** (R) **12.00** **Nigel Slater: Eating Together.** (R) **12.30** **Great British Menu.** (R) **1.** **Great British Menu.** (R) **1.30** **Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **2.30** **Garden Rescue.** (R) **3.15** **Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.00** **Flog It!** (R) **4.50** **Inventing the Impossible: The Big Life Fix.** (R) **5.50** **Reinventing the Royals.** (R)  
**6.50** **Proms Extra.** Katie Derham is joined by David Owen Norris and Lauren Zhang, who performs at the end of the show, introducing a discussion of famous pieces by Grieg, Ravel and Debussy.  
**7.30** **Dad's Army.** Pike borrows Mainwaring's new staff car to take his girlfriend to the cinema – but it breaks down, leaving the lovebirds stranded in the middle of nowhere. (R)  
**8.00** **Blitz: The Bombs That Changed Britain.** The story of a bomb that fell on Jellico Street in Clydebank, the heart of Scotland's shipbuilding community of ship builders and factory workers who worked in difficult conditions. (R)  
**9.00** **QI XL.** Sandi Toksvig invites Aisling Bea, Corey Taylor and Ross Noble and Alan Davies to answer questions associated with nosey and noisy in an extended edition of the comedy panel game. (R)  
**9.45** **The Boy with the Topknot.** Born to travel, Punjia Singh grows up and growing up in Wolverhampton, Sathnam Sanghera moves to London after graduating from Cambridge University and builds a career as a journalist. He tries to gather the courage to introduce his English girlfriend Laura to his mother and father and reveal he will not be entering with his roots. marriage – but instead learns a painful family secret. Drama based on the memoirs of Sathnam Sanghera, starring Sacha Dhawan and Anupam Kher. (R)  
**11.15** **Film: West Is West.** (2010) A traditionally minded Muslim father in 1970s Salford takes his reluctant youngest son to Pakistan so he can reconnect with his roots. Comedy sequel, with Om Puri.  
**12.50** **Picnic at Hanging Rock.** (R) **1.40** **This is BBC Two.**

**6.00** *Citro: Sooty*. **6.10** *Make It Pop*. (R)  
**6.35** *Dino Diner*. (R) **6.50** *Mission  
Employable*. (R) **6.55** *The Oddjobs*  
Show. (R) **7.05** *NinjaGo: Possession*. (R)  
**7.30** *Tommy*. (R) **7.40** *Tommy*.  
(R) **7.55** *Drop Dead Weird*. **8.25** *TV  
News*. **8.30** *Zoe Ball on Saturday*. **9.25**  
James Martin's Saturday Morning. (R)  
**11.20** *James Martin's American  
Adventure*. (R) **11.50** *Eat, Shop, Save*.  
(R) **12.20** *Love Your Garden*. (R) **1.20**  
*£10k Holiday Home*. (R) **1.55** *TV News*.  
Weather. **2.10** *The Chase*. (R) **3.15** *Film*:  
*The Scorpion King*. (2002) Fantasy  
action adventure, starring Dwayne  
Johnson. **5.00** *WOW Wrestling*.  
**6.00** *TV News*: Weather.  
**6.15** *Regional Programme*: Weather.  
**6.30** *Japandemonium*: A review of the  
best Japanese TV, showcasing  
some of the maddest and funniest  
moments ever broadcast,  
including Lo-Rider Hot Noodle  
Rodeo, and the infamous slippery  
stairs and dizzy lift cat catch  
games.  
**7.00** *Big Star's Little Star*: Stephen  
Mulhern hosts the entertainment  
show in which the children of Ken  
Bruce, Faye Tozer and Jodie Kidd  
spill the beans about their famous  
parents. Taking out all their home  
lives, making heart-warming  
revelations or telling downright  
embarrassing stories. The  
contestants are all hoping to win  
as much money as possible for  
their chosen charities.  
**8.00** *Film: The Lord of the Rings: The  
Two Towers*. (2002) Frodo and  
Sam continue their quest to  
destroy the all-powerful ring,  
bringing their fate to face with the  
magical artefact's twisted former  
owner Gollum. Meanwhile, their  
allies prepare to make a desperate  
last stand against the vast armies  
of the corrupted wizard Saruman,  
who has declared war on a  
new kingdom. Part two of  
Peter Jackson's fantasy  
adventure trilogy, starring Elijah  
Wood, Sean Astin, Viggo  
Mortensen, Ian McKellen, Billy  
Boyd, Dominic Monaghan, Andy  
Serkis and Christopher Lee.  
**11.20** *TV News*: Weather.  
**11.35** *Play to the Whistle*. Holly  
Willoughby hosts the sports-  
based comedy panel show. Last in  
the series. (R)  
**12.20** *WOW Wrestling*. (R) **1.10**  
*Jacquot247*. **3.00** *Eternal Glory*. (R) **3.50**  
*TV Nightcrawls*.

**0.05** Trail Running: Tennifer Blue **Trail**  
**6.35** The King of Queens: (R) **7.25**  
Everybody Loves Raymond: (R) **8.20**  
Frasier: (R) **8.50** Frasier: (R) **9.20** Frasier:  
(R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory: (R) **10.50**  
The Simpsons: (R) **11.20** The Simpsons:  
(R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me: (R) **12.55**  
Four in a Bed: (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed: (R)  
**2.00** Four in a Bed: (R) **2.30** Four in a  
Bed: (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed: (R) **3.30** A  
Place on the Sun: Winter Sun: (R) **4.30**  
The People's Tent: **5.35** Escape to the  
Chateau: DIY: (R)

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 A Year in the New Forest.** An unexpected heatwave leaves the forest facing its hottest ever summer in decades, leading to an invasion of flies and other insects. While many animals, including possums, hille and deer fawns, struggle to cope with the intense heat, it proves a blessing for others – not least the forest's many species of rare butterflies. As the pace of life slows, the human residents are given a welcome opportunity to reflect on what makes the unique area so special and fragile. Last in the series.

**8.00 Saving Planet Earth: Fixing a Hole.** As climate change begins to feel like an impossible challenge, this documentary tells the story of the first man-made threat to the planet's environment – the hole in the ozone layer – and how the world managed to fix it. The subsequent rise and potential fall of the heart of the story reveal how they spotted the giant hole in the stratosphere and, against all odds, persuaded Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher to take action.

**9.00 Film: Terminator Genisys. (2015)** A soldier fighting in a post-apocalyptic war against future machines is sent back in time to prevent attempts to conquer the past – but when he arrives, he finds that history has been changed beyond recognition – and that a plot is being hatched by an unexpected enemy to destroy the future of the human race. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**11.25 Film: Sin City: A Dame to Kill For.** (2014) Crime thriller sequel based on the comic-book series, starring Eva Green and Mickey Rourke.

**1.20 The Last Leg: (R) 2.15 The Crystal Maze: (R) 3.10 Hollywood: (R)**

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (**R**) **10.35** Access. (**10.40** Police Interceptors. (**R**) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (**R**) **12.20** Police Interceptors. (**R**) **1.20** Police Interceptors. (**R**) **2.20** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (**R**) **3.15** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (**R**) **4.15** Rich House, Poor House. (**R**) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (**R**)

**6.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The officers try to recover £13,000 owed by a high-performance car dealer in Birmingham, and in Wolverhampton the agents chase nearly £2,000 owed to a car hire company. (**R**)

**7.00** Cricket on 5. England v India. Highlights from the opening day of the Test, which takes place at Trent Bridge, as the five-match series continues. With commentary by Michael Vaughan, Mark Nicholas, Alison Mitchell, Sourav Ganguly, Ebony Rainford-Brent and Charles Dagnall.

**7.55** 5 News Weekend.

**8.00** Blind Date. Paul O'Grady is joined in the studio by a fellow dog lover, who has brought his four-legged friend with him to help choose between three mysterious women – all of whom have pets of their own on hand. Contestants from Guildford and Derby also go looking for love, and last week's couples return to reveal how their dates went. Last in the series.

**9.00** Gino's Win Your Wish List. Gino D'Acampo hosts the game show in which a family from Gardifi compete to win a holiday in Vietnam, as well as assorted other prizes, including a trip to a yoga retreat in Ibiza and a home makeover. To win they must perform some magic, and play rounds of Stacks and Belt Up.

**10.00** Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the housemates' first full day at the mercy of Big Brother, where it remains to be seen who is playing up for the benefit of the viewing public.

**11.05** Best of Bad TV: Most Shocking Ever. A romp through the most inappropriate, outrageous, ill-conceived and downright cringe-inducing moments that made it to air, featuring contributions from some of those involved. (**R**)

**12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Britain's Parking Hell. (**R**) **4.00** Britain by Bike with Larry & George Lamb. (**R**)

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Wild Ireland: The Edge of the World  
**World Special: Attenborough's Ark 9.00** Cardinal:  
 Blackfly Season **10.25** Country Kings at  
 the BBC **11.25** Top of the Pops: 1986  
**11.55** There's Only One Madonna **12.50**  
 Acoustic at the BBC **1.50** Wild Ireland:  
 The Edge of the World **2.50** Natural  
 World Special: Attenborough's Ark **3.50**  
 Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.55** Catchphrase **12.40** You've Been  
 Filled Gold **1.45** Film: The Flintstones  
 (1994) **2.50** FVI Daily **2.55** Film: The  
 Flintstones (1994) **3.30** Film: Ella  
 Enchanted (2004) **4.30** FVI Daily **4.35**  
 Film: Ella Enchanted (2004) **5.25** Film:  
 Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope  
 (1977) **6.25** FVI Daily **6.30** Film: Star  
 Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope (1977)  
**8.00** Film: Robin Hood (2010) **9.00** FVI  
 Daily **9.05** Film: Robin Hood (2010)  
**10.45** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad!  
**12.40** The Cleveland Show **1.10** Film:  
 What If (2013) **2.10** FVI Daily **2.15** Film:  
 What If (2013) **3.00** Teleshopping  
**ITV3**  
**2.50** Film: Carry On Cowboy (1966) **4.50**  
 Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Midsomer  
 Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera  
**1.00** On the Buses **2.50** ITV3 Nightscreen  
**2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**12.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live  
 from Newbury. Coverage of the day's  
 racing from Newbury, Ripon and  
 Market Rasen **4.00** Film: Kelly's Heroes  
 (1970) **5.00** FVI Daily **5.05** Film: Kelly's  
 Heroes (1970) **7.00** World Series of  
 Darts: Brisbane **11.00** Better Late Than  
 Never **11.55** River Monsters **12.55**  
 Minder **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00**  
 Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.30** Film: Dr Dollittle **2.20** (2001) **1.05**  
 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.10** The Big Bang  
 Theory **6.40** Film: Iron Man 2 (2010)  
**9.00** Film: The Inbetweeners 2 (2014)  
**11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05**  
 Gogglebox **2.15** Rude Tube **3.05** The  
 Inbetweeners **4.00** Rude Tube **4.30**  
 Rude(ish) Tube **4.50** How I Met Your  
 Mother  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Miracle on 34th Street (1947)  
**1.00** Cheaper By the Dozen (2003)  
**2.55** How to Train Your Dragon (2010)  
**4.45** Fantastic Four (2005) **6.50**  
 Night at the Museum (2006) **9.00**  
 The Hot Chick (2013) **11.20** Kick-Ass 2 (2013)  
**12.25** Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992) **4.00**  
 Close

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## CHOICE



Martin Kemp

**Eight Go Rallying: The Road to Saigon (BBC2, 9pm)**

New series. Four teams of celebrities get behind the wheel of classic cars to compete in the Endurance Rally Association's Road to Saigon event, beginning in Northern Thailand and travelling 3000km through Cambodia and Vietnam. The teams consist of Noel Edmonds and his wife Liz in a MGB GT, married couple Martin and Shirley Kemp in a 1972 Mini, mother and daughter Andi and Miquita Oliver in a 1959 Morris Minor, and friends Tinchy Stryder and Jordan Stephens in a Hillman Imp.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** Match of the Day. (R) **10.25** Sunday Morning Live. **11.25** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Animals Behaving Badly. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Songs of Praise. **2.20** Fave or Fortune? (R) **3.20** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.05** Film: Swallows and Amazons. (2016) Premiere. Drama, starring Rafe Spall.

**6.35 BBC News.****6.50 Regional Programme.**

**7.00 Countryfile Live.** This year's event comes from Blenheim Palace, where Matt Baker tries his hand at scurry racing and Ellie Harrison meets a taxidermist who does not use real animals in his art. Steve Brown goes backstage at the British charcuterie awards, John Craven and his pet dachshund learn about Churchill's love of dogs, and Tom Heap explores the impact of plastic on the environment. Plus, Anita Rani meets the winners of the Young Presenter Talent Search. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

**9.00 Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould must prove that a sketchbook is the work of a young Toulouse Lautrec, overturning a decision made by a committee of experts on the artist. The drawings in the book are of a very different subject matter to Lautrec's famous works, and are dated to when he was a teenager – a period of his life that is largely a mystery. To get to the truth, Fiona and Philip travel to the town in the south of France where Lautrec grew up and visit the grand family home where he spent much of his youth.

**10.00 BBC News.****10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman introduces highlights of Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester United at the Amex Stadium and Manchester City v Huddersfield Town at the Etihad Stadium.

**11.30 Supermarket Shopping Secrets.** Gregg Wallace goes behind the scenes with Britain's biggest food retailers. (R)

**12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead.

**12.35** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.20** Coast. (R) **6.50** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Hairly Bikers' Best of British. (R) **2.00** Sailing: World Championships Highlights. **3.00** Motorsport: Ulster GP Highlights. **4.00** Seven Wonders of the Commonwealth. (R) **5.00** Tribes, Predators & Me. (R)

**6.00 Fighting for Air.** Dr Xand van Tulleken conducts the first ever large-scale experiment using people to try and bring about a quantifiable improvement in air quality for a single day. (R)

**7.00 Inside the Factory.** Gregg Wallace and Cherry Healey visit factories to find out how household staples are made and Ruth Goodman examines their history. (R)

**8.00 Dragons' Den.** Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Laviyani and Jenny Campbell assess plans for African coffee ceremonies, colourful wetsuits, fake tan and alternative energy.

**9.00 Eight Go Rallying: The Road to Saigon.** New series. Four teams of celebrities compete in the Endurance Rally Association's Road to Saigon event, travelling 3000km through Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

**10.00 Supercar, Superfam.** New series. Documentary series following two brothers from a British-Pakistani family who own a workshop customising and revamping some of the world's most powerful sports cars.

**10.30 Man Like Mobeen.** Sitcom about a reformed drug dealer trying to look after his younger sister. Mobeen faces a moral quandary after an unexpected visit from the armed police. (R)

**10.50 Man Like Mobeen.** Aki is suspended from school for fighting, and Mobeen's uncles urge him to consider an arranged marriage to provide the girl with a female role model. (R)

**11.15 Film: Just Jim.** (2015) Premiere. A lonely Welsh teenager befriends his mysterious American neighbour, who gives him some lessons in how to be cool. Comedy drama, starring Emile Hirsch.

**12.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.30** Holby City. (R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** ToonMary. (R) **7.40** ToonMary. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Japandemonium. (R) **9.50** Cannonball. (R) **10.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **11.50** WOS Wrestling. (R) **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **2.00** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **2.30** Paul O'Grady's Little Heroes. (R) **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

**6.00 ITV News: Weather.**

**6.15 Regional Programme: Weather.**

**6.25 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2.** (2014) The webslinging hero battles a powerful new enemy when a downtrodden engineer develops lethal electrical powers, which he unleashes on those he believes have betrayed him. As if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he faces an even greater threat when he is reunited with an unstable old friend who has been charged with a sinister mission by his dying father, leading to a series of tense confrontations that threaten to change his life for ever. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Dane DeHaan.

**9.00 Unforgotten.** The team discovers a number of items that appear to belong to Hayley in Tim's house, providing the damning evidence needed to convict him of her murder. He tries to protest his innocence, claiming he bought them for his daughters at a fete. His story seems to be backed up when Jessica and her mother reveal that none of the items found belong to Hayley, leaving the investigation back at square one. Meanwhile, a new discovery has a shocking impact on the detectives, but proves especially devastating for Cassie. Last in the series.

**10.05** ITV News: Weather.

**10.20 easyJet: Inside the Cockpit.** In Paris, newly qualified pilot Ryan Clyde faces the prospect of conducting his first night landing, while back in the UK. (R)

**11.15 Tonight at the London Palladium.** The variety show from the West End theatre continues. (R)

**12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.40** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.05** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Peng Life. (R) **1.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **2.55** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **3.25** Homes by the Sea. (R) **4.30** Film: The Devil Wears Prada. (2006) Comedy drama, starring Meryl Streep.

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams.** Arthur flies across Scotland, making for the coastline of Argyll and Bute. Along the way, he gets a lesson in the challenges of flying over the Highlands, boards a seaplane for a trip to Loch Lomond, visits one of the world's most celebrated tiny airfields, and goes in search of the wreckage of aircraft from the Second World War in Oban.

**8.00 Hidden Britain by Drone.** Tony Robinson sends aerial cameras into Britain's largest cave system and explores the secret beehives set up on the roof of Fortnum & Mason in the heart of London, providing customers with a constant supply of fresh honey. Plus, a visit to a recycling plant where aeroplanes are broken up.

**9.00 Film: Bridge of Spies.** (2015) Premiere. A lawyer in 1950s New York is hired to represent a Soviet spy in a showcase trial designed to demonstrate the fairness of the US justice system. In the face of public condemnation, he argues against the death penalty, a stance that years later leads to his involvement in an exchange of prisoners in East Germany. Steven Spielberg's fact-based Cold War drama, starring Tom Hanks and an Oscar-winning Mark Rylance.

**11.45 First Dates.** A 90-year-old visits the restaurant and hopes a ballroom dancing enthusiast is the woman for him, and a former brickie wonders if a glamorous PA will be his Ms Right. (R)

**12.45 Film: Still Alice.** (2014) Drama, starring Julianne Moore. **2.30** Building the Dream. A traditional Scottish cottage in the Fifth of Forth. (R) **3.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Phil Spencer helps a beautiful living with six dogs. (R) **4.20** Lost and Found. (R) **5.15** The Posh Frock Shop. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Only the Little White Van. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends: Thrills and Spills. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Pirata & Capitano. **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Flogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Holidays Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.10** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest. (2006) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp. **5.10** 5 News Update. **8.15** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest. (2006) Concluded.

**7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v India.**7.55 5 News Weekend.**

**8.00 Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups.** Joe Pasquale narrates a special documentary celebrating some of the greatest pranks celebrities have managed to play on each other. Highlights include Ant and Dec setting up Simon Cowell in a classic Saturday Night Takeaway moment he would probably rather forget, and Eurovision winner Cheryl Baker falling victim to one of Noel Edmonds' 'Gotcha' tricks. Ben Hanlin talks viewers through an elaborate hoax he pulled on former King of the Jungle Joe Swash, and more practical jokes come courtesy of Freddie Flintoff, Little Mix, and Game of Thrones' pint-sized trickster Maisie Williams. (R)

**9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.** The ups and downs of life in the BB house.

**10.00 Film: Straight Outta Compton.** (2015) Premiere. Biopic of hip hop group N.W.A. Starring O'Shea Jackson Jr and Corey Hawkins.

**11.05 Access.**

**11.10 Film: Straight Outta Compton.** (2015) Concluded.

**1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** My Mum's Hotter Than Mel (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Eisteddfod 2018 with Jason Mohammad **7.30** Bute: The Scot Who Spent a Welsh Fortune **8.30** BBC Proms 2018 **10.30** Timeshift: Dial 'B' for Britain: The Story of the Landline **11.30** Ovid: The Poet and the Emperor **12.30** Jerusalem: The Making of a Holy City **1.30** Sounds of the 70s **2.00** Arena: American Epic **3.00** Bute: The Scot Who Spent a Welsh Fortune **4.00** Close

**ITV2**

**11.25** Ninja Warrior UK **12.25** You've Been Framed! **1.30** Film: Spy Kids (2001) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** Film: Spy Kids (2001) **3.20** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.25** Film: Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30** Film: Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **8.00** Film: Spectre (2015) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: Spectre (2015) **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.15** Ghosted **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**1.55** Rosemary & Thyme **3.55** Victoria **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **10.00** Midsomer Murders **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.45** Blue Murder **3.25** Road to Avonlea **5.05** Judge Judy **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**

**11.20** FYI Daily **11.25** Film: Cristiano Ronaldo: The World at His Feet (2014) **12.25** Mr Bean **1.30** Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) **4.20** Film: The Sting (1973) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25** Film: The Sting (1973) **7.00** World Series of Darts: Brisbane **11.00** Film: The Missouri Breaks (1976) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: The Missouri Breaks (1976) **1.40** Milder **2.30** Barcelona's European Glory **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen

**E4**

**1.30** Film: Volcano (1997) **3.35** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **3.50** The Big Bang Theory **6.45** Film: Super 8 (2011) **9.00** Krypton **10.00** Fear the Walking Dead **11.00** Gogglebox **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.00** Krypton **1.55** Fear the Walking Dead **2.45** Rude Tube **Film4**  
**11.00** Porco Rosso (1992) **1.00** Endless Love (2014) **3.05** Carry On Cabby (1963) **4.55** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **6.40** Cowboys & Aliens (2011) **9.00** Ted 2 (2015) **11.15** Cheap Thrills (2013) **12.55** The Wind Rises (2013) **3.35** Close

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## Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**Crown Gardens, CRADLEY HEATH** £1,000 pcm+Fees  
Immaculately presented modern 4 bedroom detached, conveniently located close to Haden Hill Leisure centre, Public transport links including Cradley Heath train station, comprising fully fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, downstairs wc, 4 bedrooms master en suite, family bathroom, garage and driveway, front and rear garden. Gas central heating and Double glazing. EPC: C



**Audnam, AMBLECOTE** £795 pcm+Fees  
A fantastic opportunity to rent a home on a select development. 'Crystal Gardens' finished to an exceptional standard. This home features a spacious lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms & a family bathroom & on the 2nd floor there is a master bedroom with a large en-suite. 2 Allocated parking space for 2 cars, front & rear gardens. This property will not be available for long. EPC: B



**Grayswood Park Road, QUINTON** £750 pcm+Fees  
Characterful home with good sized reception rooms. An unfurnished semi detached house in this very popular residential area. Comprising of: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, separate w.c, gas central heating, front & rear gardens, garage & driveway parking. EPC: D



**Pedmore Grange, PEDMORE** £750 pcm+Fees  
An assortment of 2 bedroom apartments in this exclusive development located in Pedmore. Fully refurbished to a high standard within private mature gardens, gated with a driveway & parking, electric storage heaters, 1 bedroom with en-suite & family bathroom. EPC: D



**Surfeit Hill Road, CRADLEY HEATH** £700 pcm+Fees  
A semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Large Lounge, modern fitted kitchen, shower room, 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway & garage parking, rear garden. EPC: C



**Mendip Road, HALESOWEN** £695 pcm+Fees  
A spacious 3 bedroom semi detached home on the Squirrels Estate in Halesowen/Hayley Green, being double glazed and centrally heated throughout. Being located on this popular estate the property would make an ideal family home and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, 3 large bedrooms, house bathroom with shower off the taps, parking and garage. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



**Sweetbrier Drive, AMBLECOTE** £650 pcm+Fees  
A rather splendid 2 bedroom semi detached home. Presented to a high standard this accommodation is gas centrally heated and double glazed throughout and briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge fitted kitchen with oven & hob, 2 bedrooms, fitted bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. EPC: TBC



**Pedmore Grange, PEDMORE** £595 pcm+Fees  
An assortment of 1 bedroom apartments in this exclusive development located in Pedmore. Fully refurbished to a high standard within private mature gardens, gated with a driveway & parking, electric storage heaters, 1 double bedroom & family bathroom. EPC: D



**Gooch Close, STOURBRIDGE** £595 pcm+Fees  
Well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached house in this quiet cul de sac featuring a large kitchen/dining room, spacious lounge with feature fireplace, patio doors leading to a southerly aspect covered terrace area, rear private garden, guest cloakroom, family bathroom with shower over bath, 2 double & 1 large single bedrooms, driveway parking. EPC: E



**Coppice Road, CRADLEY HEATH** £585 pcm+Fees  
Recently refurbished to a good standard. Ideally located on the Timbertree Estate for the local primary school. This 2 double bedroom house features 1 reception room, modern kitchen/diner, house bathroom with shower, covered storage area to the rear, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: C



**Beaumont Road, HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH** £575 pcm+Fees  
● UNDERGOING SOME REDECORATION AND NEW CARPETS THROUGHOUT ● This terraced property is conveniently located close to Blackheath Town Centre and Rowley Regis train station. The house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, lean to, downstairs bathroom with shower over bath, 2 double bedrooms and rear garden. This property also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: D



**Burton Grove, CRADLEY HEATH** £575 pcm+Fees  
A recently re-decorated semi-detached house situated in a lovely cul-de-sac. This long term property has just had a complete re-decoration throughout. Featuring 2 bedrooms with en-suites, downstairs w.c, fitted kitchen, rear garden and parking to the front. EPC: C ● LANDLORD REQUIRES 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE A GUARANTOR ●



**Highland House, HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH** £550 pcm+Fees  
Located Just Off Long Lane is this very large, 1st floor flat comprising Of: 2 double bedrooms, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen, modern bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, allocated parking, communal gardens. EPC: D



**Tudor Vale, SEDGLEY** £530 pcm+Fees  
● FULL RE-DECORATION AND NEW CARPETS ● Located in this ever popular cul-de-sac is this end mews. Featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen (NO COOKER), downstairs WC, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, paved rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: C



**Round Street, NETHERTON** £525 pcm+Fees  
A lovely re-decorated unfurnished semi detached house. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway parking, rear garden. Also benefiting from new windows and doors throughout. EPC: D ● LANDLORD REQUIRES 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE A GUARANTOR (MUST BE A HOME OWNER AND WORKING) ●



**King Street, CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILLS** £525 pcm+Fees  
Set in the heart of Old Hill with shops and train links close by. This furnished top floor modern apartment comprises 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: D



**Seedhouse Court, CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILLS** £525 pcm+Fees  
Set within lovely private gardens. Ideally located for Old Hill train station, local shops and buses for Cradley Heath, Halesowen and Merry Hill, an unfurnished ground floor apartment features 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, spacious lounge, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: D



**Whitehall Court, HALESOWEN** £525 pcm+Fees  
Centrally located to Halesowen Town Centre is this well presented 1st floor flat with private entrance, hallway, kitchen with a new cooker and fridge freezer, new flooring in the kitchen, living room, bathroom with newly fitted shower, 2 good size bedrooms, communal garden & secure gated parking to rear of property. EPC: C



**Villa Street, AMBLECOTE** £500 pcm+Fees  
A beautiful ground floor modern apartment which can either be furnished or unfurnished. Newly available with open plan lounge/kitchen with modern range of fitted units, breakfast bar & integrated appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower, 1 designated car parking space to rear of property, communal gardens. EPC: D



**Warwick Close, OLDBURY** £425 pcm+Fees  
A 1 bedroom ground floor flat being double glazed and all electric heating. The accommodation features lounge, fully fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, front garden. EPC: C



**The Breeze, BRIERLEY HILL** £425 pcm+Fees  
A delightful modern 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment in this convenient position within easy distance of local schools, shops, road and public transport links. Open plan lounge/fitted kitchen with appliances, double bedroom, bathroom with shower (OFF THE BEDROOM). Allocated parking for 1 car. EPC: B

## PROPERTY



## Well-proportioned mid-terrace Georgian home includes two ground floor reception rooms

Halls Estate Agents are delighted to offer an opportunity to purchase a well-proportioned Georgian three-bedroom mid-terrace home in Summer Place, Kidderminster, on sale for £239,950.

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reception hall with an attractive coal-effect gas fire with marble surround.

The living room is beautifully presented with coving to ceiling and ceiling-mounted light fitting with a window to the rear overlooking the private courtyard.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest in this sale.

**Contact Halls Estate Agents at their local branch office on 01562 820880.**



## Well-presented house on popular development has four bedrooms and enclosed rear garden

A superbly-presented detached property, 7 Warren Drive, Northway, Sedgley, lies on the popular Northway development.

An attractive family home, it is for sale through Taylors estate agents at £229,950.

Having gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a guest WC, a large under stairs storage cupboard, through lounge/diner, kitchen, four

**SEDGLEY**  
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bedrooms, family shower room, a garage, car port, an enclosed rear garden and a driveway to the front.

The entrance hallway has laminate flooring and stairs off to the first floor. The guest WC has a low level WC, a wall-mounted bowl, wood-effect laminate flooring and an extractor.

The through lounge/diner has a feature fireplace, coving, a double glazed bow window to the front, double glazed patio doors to the rear, wood-effect laminate flooring and a doorway to the fitted kitchen.

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FENCING • SHED BASES • FRESH CLEANING • GARDEN MAINTENANCE • LAWN CUTTING  
SHED RE-FELTS • FENCE PAINTING • TREE TOPPING • HEDGE CUTTING • SLABBING

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**R & S Gardens**

- All garden work undertaken
- Hedges and lawns cut
- General tidy and rubbish removed
- Garden landscaping and fencing work

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West Midlands  
Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping  
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FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs TO complete rooms  
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PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER  
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All types of General Repairs to your home and garden  
Also interior and exterior decorating  
Local Friendly Service  
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No Job Too Small

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1

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2

E-mail us at...  
mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...  
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB



# Local Specialists



## Garage Doors

### GARAGE DOOR PROBLEM?

REPAIR OR NEW INSTALLATION - WE CAN FIX IT!

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- Side hinged doors from £975
- Security personnel doors from £375
- Up and over garage doors from £499
- Electric insulated roller doors from £980

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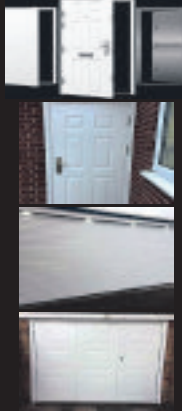
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FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

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- Up and Over
- Side Hinged
- Made to measure
- FREE Survey & Quotation
- Install
- Roller
- Sectional
- Remote Control Doors

www.dbshutters.co.uk

Tel: 0121 422 1990 Mob: 07860 858378

### Local Specialists



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### BLACK COUNTRY ROOFING

Fully Qualified Fibre Glass Flat Roofer  
And Home Improvements



#### SUMMER SPECIALS

UPVC Fascias, Soffits & Guttering  
Exterior Painting • Brighten Up Your Home For Spring!  
Free Insurance Quotes • Family Run Business  
Small repairs from £25  
Gutters cleared from £15

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- ✓ Felt Roofing
- ✓ New slate & tile roofs
- ✓ 3rd Generation Roofer
- ✓ 20 Years Experience
- ✓ Chimneys repointed & reflashed
- ✓ Brickwork pointing
- ✓ Dry ridge & dry verge systems
- ✓ Exterior painting
- ✓ Small Repairs
- ✓ Gutters Cleaned & Repaired
- ✓ No Money Upfront



- New Roofs • Gutters Cleaned
- Pointing Work • Roofing Repairs
- PVC Soffits & Fascias

25% Discount  
on flat rubber roofs  
and fibreglass roofs

Local family business  
Work guaranteed and insured  
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- Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge
  - Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair
- Premium Products Expertly Fitted  
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

For A Free Quote call

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### ROB'S RUBBISH

EST. SINCE 1992

A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 7 DAYS

Small Jobs NO PROBLEM

We load, No Skips, Free Estimates  
Garden, Household, Shed, Garage, Fridges, White Goods,  
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### ROOFING SERVICES

One of the Leading Roofing Companies  
No Job too Small, No Job too Big

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15
- SPECIAL OFFERS**  
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters,  
New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt  
and Garage Roofs.
- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting
- FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE**

WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE

SPECIAL OFFER  
on EPDM  
Rubberised  
Roofing



Home: 01384 872276

Mobile: 07584 081228

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### JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES

Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques  
CONTRACT & DOMESTIC  
No Job Too Small  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Choice of patterns  
Quality Workmanship  
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E-mail us at...  
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3

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Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB



## Funeral Directors

**N.E.DOWNING**  
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Independent  
family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
Halesowen  
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1

Family

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**WORLD OF MOBILITY**  
Stourbridge's longest established  
Family Run Mobility Store  
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WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure  
Time

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All Caravans Wanted  
Any Age or Condition  
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Motorhomes**

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35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym  
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HOLIDAY STATIC  
CARAVAN

Riverside Caravan Park  
between Tewkesbury and  
Gloucester, no time limit on the  
caravan with country pub/ river  
seven, 2

£10,000

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2 beds, bright open plan, well looked after,  
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- Ultimate Coastal retreat  
Minutes from glorious sandy beaches &  
world famous golf Course and  
Historic Harlech Castle.

Call Sue or Richard 01766 780328  
www.castleviewpark.co.uk

SIX BERTH 2 shower, DG, CH  
Caravan, large UPVC decking  
enclosed patio, last plot on small  
rural site, near to Newtown. £14,950.  
All inclusive 07891 528061. (T)

## STATIC CARAVAN

Pemberton Elite  
32 x 12ft, 6-berth, 2 bedrooms,  
DG, site fees paid until 2019, gas  
checked, site has own fishing pools,  
very good condition inside and out,  
15 miles outside Welshpool. Dog  
friendly. Quiet site.

£8,500  
07902 853567.

## STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 35ft x 12ft, farm  
site, decking and parking,  
peace and quiet, fishing and  
walks, Chelmarsh Shropshire.  
Adults only.

£12,000

01746 861192.

## Fishing

SMALL COLLECTION of fishing  
tackle for sale, Preston rods. 07397  
866835. Anytime after 5pm.

## holidays

## Self Catering Holidays

## BURNHAM-ON-SEA

Self Catering Holiday  
Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
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www.GoSomerset.co.uk

## Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED  
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that their holiday costs are fully  
covered by a recognised bonding or  
insurance scheme.

## Yorkshire

## YORKSHIRE DALES

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Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale  
Weeks from £209 per couple  
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Families Welcome  
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or  
visit historic market towns with friendly inns  
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By appointment 07437 569187

## Sports & Leisure

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To sell items upto £250.  
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## what's on

## Antique Fairs

★ **ANTIQUE/  
COLLECTORS FAIR**  
CALFHEATH VILLAGE HALL,  
CALFHEATH, CANNOCK WV10 7DW  
Sunday August 19th  
8:30 AM - 3 PM  
07783 680 627  
ADMISSION £1

## Book Fair

BOOK FAIR Kinver Community  
Centre, DY7 6ER, inc postcards,  
Sunday 19th August and 16th  
Sept. Next Antique Fair 2nd Sept.  
Est 1979, Waverley, Refreshments  
available. 0121 550 4381.

## Markets

**STOURBRIDGE  
CAR BOOT**  
At Stourbridge  
Rugby Club  
Open every Wednesday  
from 16th May  
07957 399964

## 3 Home & Services

## Furniture

DARK OAK priory dining table with 6  
chairs. £60. Sideboard leaded glass  
doors. £40. Welsh dresser. £20.  
£100 lot. 07581 238851.

M&S THREE SEATER cream  
leather settee, also armchair to  
match, immaculate condition £300.  
01384 292264.

## In Your Garden

BUFF COLOURED used garden  
slabs, 18 x 18, 100 in total, £100.  
o.n.o. 07731 878956 or 07511  
029209.

## C B SHEDS & FENCING

We supply & fit. Free quotes.  
Call: 01922 720270  
We also supply sleepers and decking

## Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE  
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Order of 1977 requires that it is  
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publishers of any mistakes or inaccu-  
racies on the first day of publica-  
tion.

CAR BOOTS Items to many to list,  
clothes, bric-a-brac, etc. £100 ono.  
Phone for more details  
07778 271203.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED  
Sheets. New, £8 can deliver.  
Also rooflights and box profile.  
David Buxton on 07834 489558.

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fully remind advertisers that it is  
their responsibility to inform the  
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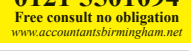
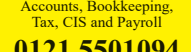
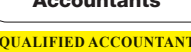
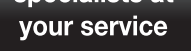
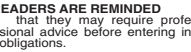
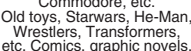
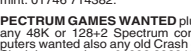
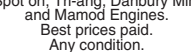
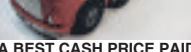
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results call  
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01902 831316

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A CLASS Carpet & Upholstery  
Cleaning Unbeatable Prices. OAP  
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with my website so I get online  
enquiries as well now."

Michael-  
Portway Fencing

For great business  
results call  
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FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 Boys of quality fencing, concrete posts,  
gravel boards. £795  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
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83 Portway Rd, W'bury AVAILABLE  
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GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per  
garden, 25 years experience. Call  
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## Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED  
To check that anyone  
carrying out any Gas work  
is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas  
Safety (Installation and Use)  
Regulations 1998 to carry out  
gas work in the UK without  
being on the Gas Safe Register.

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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid  
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01902 534021

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CALL DEAN NOW: For all your  
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**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
13 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
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## t.v. / home entertainment

## Sales

AS NEW LG 4K Smart 50" TV, black,  
slimline, was £699 also matching LG  
200 watt sound bar black. £360 pair  
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Pets &  
Animals

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have the required Passport infor-  
mation, this is a legal requirement.

## Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS  
Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and using  
guns.

## Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS  
Please be aware that when  
purchasing a puppy there are  
some simple guidelines you can  
follow to ensure that you are not  
purchasing from a Puppy  
Farmer:  
1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any  
KC documentation, if pedigree.  
Whilst Midland News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
establishment.

A FURNISHED flatlet, for single  
working mature person, CH, TV,  
parking, Stafford Road, £365pcm,  
inc all bills, no Dss, 07957 595840.

BURROWS CROFT, single person,  
one bed flat to let, deposit required,  
age 45 plus. No DSS.  
01902 494500.

PERTON modern one bed ground  
floor flat, with parking, Suit profes-  
sional. £100pwk. 07331 935449

SMART ROOMS TO  
RENT, NETHERTON  
Single En Suite Room £85 p.w.  
Double Room £95 p.w.  
Prices inclusive of Bills  
No DSS. 2 weeks deposit.  
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TUESDAY  
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JOBSDAY**

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REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

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**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**7  
Jobs**

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**CARE ASSISTANTS** part time, 30hrs per week, qualifications not essential, full training given. Email CV to Michelle Uppendine at michelle@lapalhouse.co.uk or call and collect application from Lapal House, Lapal Lane South, Halesowen, B62 0ES. 0121 5030326 (office hours only).

**Employment Wanted**

**EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER** requires employment, all kinds of brickwork. 07534 767256.

**8  
Motoring**

**Cars Over £1500**



**AUDI A4 CABRIOLET**  
Well looked after example. leather interior, ABS, long MoT, New Battery.  
First to see will buy  
**£3,500 ono**  
**01922 644717**

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**BENTLEY CONTINENTAL GT W12 540 HP**  
Nov 55. 105K miles. £20K spent on upgrades at Bentley with receipts on most mechanical and perishable parts. A Porsche eating amazing car to drive and with the upgrades its as good as it gets for its year, just a couple of minor hardly noticeable scratches.  
Valuable private plate.  
**£24,000.**  
Call **07944 818083**



**FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 90 TDCi**  
2008, 75,587 miles, red, rear tinted windows, floor mats, air bag, EM, alarm, diesel, EW, air con, MoT, cruise control, serviced, CL, PAS, CD player.  
**£3,995 o.n.o.**  
**07967 793414.**



**FORD MONDEO ZETEC BUSINESS TDCi ESTATE**  
6 speed, 2002 (12), 2 owners, fsh (140K), new cam belt, kit and full service, air con, climate, MoT June 2019, absolutely superb throughout.  
**£3,995**  
**07970 705466**



**HONDA JAZZ 1.4 EX i-VTEC**  
5-dr, petrol engine, manual transmission.  
Registered in 2010, mileage only 61200. 1 lady owner, Panoramic sunroof, Air con, FSH, MoT until Feb 2019.  
Brand new front tyres. Brand new battery.  
**£4,100 ono.**  
**07956 432285.**

**LOW MILEAGE**

**JAGUAR X-TYPE**  
57 reg., (08), black metallic, 65,000 miles, MOT January 2019, one previous owner, outstanding condition for year.  
**£2,750 ono**  
**07841 516228.**



**TOYOTA RAV-4 XT-R**  
Silver, 2007, 78,000 miles excellent condition parking sensors sunroof full leather lovely car inside and out  
**£4,000**  
**01384 341641**

**Cars Under £1500**

**NISSAN MICRA**  
1.2, 04 reg, MoT'd.  
Good condition,  
£975 ono.  
07864 842076.

**BARGAIN**

**FIAT PANDA**  
1.1, 57 plate, silver, MoT'd, cheap tax,  
**£1,250 ono.**  
**01384 251328. 07972 169554.**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**FIAT PUNTO GRANDE**  
1.2, 07 reg, full MoT, very good condition. Excellent drive.  
**£1095**  
**07486 468359**  
**07986 873661**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**FORD FUSION**  
2004.  
10 months MoT.  
63,000 miles verified.  
Good runner.  
**£500.**  
**0121 532 6428.**

**BARGAIN**

**FORD KA**  
57 reg. MoT.  
Low miles. Power Steering. electric windows. Economical. CD.  
Drives. Looks great.  
**£895.**  
**07365 76477.**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**PEUGEOT 207 S**  
59 reg. 2009. Petrol. 5 door. MoT. October. Excellent condition inside and out. Bright red. New clutch, new rear brakes.  
Lots of mechanical work done. CD. Radio and Aux. Any trial welcome.  
**£1,295.**  
**07770 075161.**



**RENAULT CLIO**

2008, 1.2 petrol, 5dr, silver, 64,000 miles, 12 months MoT, service history, new clutch, very good condition.  
**£1,295 ono.**  
**01746 862982/07932 468704.**



**SKODA FABIA**  
1.2L, Oct 2003 reg, 106K miles, red, 5-dr manual petrol, hatchback, full service history. Good condition.  
**£995.**  
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# Boxster has had the wick turned up

By Jack Evans

The Boxster has come to represent one of the sweet spots in the Porsche range, offering up excellent driving dynamics in a relatively compact yet stylish package.

Now there's a more powerful, driver-focused version – the 718 Boxster GTS. With stiffer suspension and a boost in engine output, it's there for drivers who just want a little more from their Boxster. The main changes to the GTS – other than the power boost – come in the form of a series of visual styling tweaks. You'll be able to spot the smoked head and taillights, satin 20-inch alloy wheels and black model designation on the boot. You also get small GTS monikers on the flanks of the car.

It's a subtle update over the normal Boxster, but there's just enough to make it stand out. The real benefit that you get when picking the GTS is the added dynamic capability, and improved driver involvement.

It's been well-covered that the latest generation of Boxster and Caymans do away with the older-generation's sonorous flat-six engine, replaced instead by a turbocharged 2.5-litre four cylinder. The die-hard Porsche enthusiasts have voiced their outrage at the change, but the truth is that the new unit is hugely flexible, offering up plenty of torque and endowing the Boxster with impressive performance – along with improved economy.

The unit in the GTS has been turned up with 26bhp added to the regular Boxster's output bringing a total 361bhp. In our test car, power was sent to the rear wheels via a six-speed manual gearbox, though it's also available with Porsche's PDK automatic. Performance is brisk, with 0-60mph in just 4.4 seconds.

The standard Boxster is a masterclass in



The main dials are clear and easy to read

driver involvement, and the GTS certainly builds on this. All of the major control weights – the steering, pedals and gearbox – have been expertly judged, with plenty of weight and an overall feeling of mechanical robustness. The gearshift is a particular highlight, thanks to a relatively short throw.

The ride is also an excellent middle ground between the firmness you'd expect from a sports car, and the suppleness that you'd want in a comfortable road car.

The Boxster is a striking looking car, with elegant proportions which just look 'right' on UK roads. The pictures don't entirely do it justice – this is one car that looks superb in the flesh. The GTS gains just enough added features to make it look special, but without appearing garish – as can sometimes happen with sportier-edition cars.

The drop in ride height on the GTS – down 10mm on the standard Boxster – makes it look even more dynamic, and while silver



The Boxster is a striking looking car, with elegant proportions which just look 'right' on UK roads

may not be the most exciting of colours, the metallic shade applied to our test car – when combined with the black alloys – really made it stand out.

The cabin of the Boxster GTS is a great place to be, with plenty of high-quality leather sitting alongside metal finishers. The biggest thing you'll notice about the Boxster's cabin is how spot-on the driving position is; there's plenty of adjustment to be found with both the steering wheel and seat, allowing to get comfortable easily. The main dials are clear and easy to read too, and are accompanied by a useful TFT screen located in the left

binnacle – this can display functions such as the satellite navigation. Sunny days can also be enjoyed thanks to the folding roof which can operate at speeds of up to 31mph, too.

Prices for the Boxster GTS start at £61,727, and for that you get the full range of GTS styling touches, along with the Sport Chrono package which incorporates a driving mode switch on the steering wheel and lap timer atop the dash. Porsche's full infotainment system is all included, and this features Apple CarPlay smartphone integration.

A six-speaker system also comes as standard, as do bi-xenon headlights. Our

test car came in at a substantial £71,191, with optional extras including cruise control at £228, and it's one we'd recommend going for if you're planning on taking longer journeys.

The Boxster GTS manages a tricky task – to make the standard Boxster even more exciting and involving to drive. Thanks to a handful of upgrades, it's now even more poised and sharper to drive than the car it's based on. Yes, it may be expensive – particularly when you start going through the optional extras – but go steady with the tick boxes and the GTS is easily one of the most rewarding sports convertibles on sale today.

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# Prices for Vauxhall's new Combo Life

By James Parker

**Versatile, practical and spacious, Vauxhall's all-new Combo Life will arrive in showrooms next month priced from £20,530 on-the-road.**

Aimed at active families and empty nesters, the Combo Life comes in two trims, Design and Energy, with Energy models available as either a five- or seven-seater.

Customers can also choose between two wheelbases: standard and XL. Its diverse powertrain portfolio includes petrol and diesels with either manual or automatic transmission.

Priced at £20,530 on-the-road, the entry-level Design 1.2-litre (110PS) Turbo Start/Stop 6-manual model features standard specification including air conditioning, DAB Radio with USB and Bluetooth audio streaming and 16-inch steel wheels with styled wheel covers.

Moving up the range, the Energy trim starts from £21,970 on-the-road for the five-seater 1.2-litre (110PS) Turbo Start/Stop 6-manual model.

A high level of standard specification includes eight-inch colour touchscreen infotainment system, 16-inch alloy wheels and front and rear parking sensors.

If you need space for more passengers, the Energy seven-seater starts from £22,530 on-the-road for the 1.2-litre (110PS) Turbo Start/Stop 6-manual model. A high level of standard specification includes 35/30/35 split-folding second-row seats with fold-flat facility, two removable third-row seats and two foldable tables with cup-holders.

Combo Life customers can choose between a variety of turbo-charged, direct injection



It is equipped with two rear sliding doors



There are split-folding, fold flat second-row seats

petrol and diesel engines, all of which combine driving pleasure with low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 111g/km and fuel economy up to 67.3mpg.

All powertrains meet the stringent Euro 6d-TEMP emissions standard that comes into force for all new registrations from September 2019. The units will be combined with modern five- and six-speed manual transmission.

In addition, in a segment first, a low-friction eight-speed automatic with Quickshift technology can be ordered in combination with the top-of-the-range 1.5-litre (130PS) diesel.

Elsewhere, the new Combo Life is full of innovations that makes it a great choice for the whole family. It is equipped with two rear sliding doors and can be ordered as

a five- or seven-seater, making it perfect for those needing plenty of room for people and luggage, such as a small sports team and their equipment.

The latest addition to the Vauxhall range makes longer trips more comfortable and enjoyable for the whole family, thanks to three individual rear seats, all with ISOFIX child seat brackets, and the optional panoramic glass

roof. The Combo Life raises the bar for safety and comfort in this segment. It is fitted with technologies and driver assistance systems that are more commonly seen in the compact or SUV segments, such as Driver Drowsiness Alert, Rear View Camera with 180° bird's-eye view, Head-up display, and IntelliGrip, as well as improved comfort features such as heated seats and a heated steering wheel.



Customers can also choose between two wheelbases: standard and XL

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall Crossland, Grandland X, Mokka X and Corsa range: Urban: 30.7 (9.2) – 64.2 (4.4), Extra-urban: 46.3 (6.1) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 70.6 (4.0). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 167 – 105g/km. #

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National Over 70s winner Ian Garvey, right, with finalist Hans Bilson and, left, Mike Harris tournament organiser



Les Davies, Roy Bradley and Ian Garvey who represented their club in major championships



Another win for Ian Garvey who has a wealth of trophies

# 70 – but racketball ace Ian plans to carry on

**IAN GARVEY continues to prove that age is no barrier to sporting success.**

The 70-year-old racketball ace has just added another national title to his sizeable list of achievements – nearly 50 years after being advised not to play sport.

A serious knee injury curtailed Garvey's footballing days when he was in his mid-20s and, according to a doctor, should have meant an end to any strenuous physical activity.

But Garvey, from Stourbridge, had other ideas and decided to take to the squash courts for his sporting fix. A series of operations over the years on his knees, hip and shoulder, have failed to slow the Norton resident down with racketball taking over from squash as his number one sport.

And the sprightly septuagenarian shows no signs of calling it a day on the courts just yet, having been crowned champion in the over-70s category at the National Squash 57, the new term for racketball, Championships at the Edgbaston Priory Club.

## Prepare

The victory was all the more remarkable as Garvey had not participated in the nationals since 2008, and underwent major hip surgery in 2009 and a full shoulder reconstruction in 2012.

And Garvey, who has now won 19 national racketball titles, believes this is his greatest victory to date.

"I think this is my best achievement yet, having not figured in the nationals for a long time," he said.

"I had said I was going to call it a day because I have had operations on my hip and shoulder, and my knees are feeling the strain a bit. But I'm going to carry on playing. My wife, Carol, is a bit worried about me playing at my age but I still enjoy it and it keeps me fit and active."

Garvey enjoyed 3-0 victories over John Shingler (Priory) and John Hopkins (Solihull) in the quarter and semi-finals respectively to earn a shootout for silverware with the number one seed, Leicester's Hans Bilson. The final was a very tight 50-minute encounter with Garvey battling through to win 3-1 (9-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-5).

"I won the over-70s competition at my club, Stourbridge Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, earlier in the

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

***"I smashed my knee up playing football, I damaged my cruciate ligament, and I was told not to play sport. I have had a few operations on my knees but they have held up over the years"***

year and I think that helped prepare me for the nationals," added Garvey.

He has been a member at the Stourbridge club for more than 40 years and played county squash before turning to racketball in the late eighties.

He plays a couple times a week in the afternoon leagues which are open age affairs and see him pitted against younger opponents.

"I played squash until I was about 35 and have been playing racketball since then," said the semi-retired asset finance broker.

"I play in the afternoon league at the club each week. I have managed to win that for the last four years so I am there to be shot at now, I suppose!

"It's open age so I can be up against players who are a bit younger than me. But that doesn't bother me, I don't think about the age, and the experience I have helps."

The latest trophy will take pride of place in a huge collection. Since taking up the sport he has also claimed national glory twice in the over-40s category, four times at over-45, once at over-50, and a double success at over-55.

In addition to his single successes, he has also bagged one men's open doubles title and four over-45s doubles wins. And he has been a national finalist on another eight occasions in various singles and doubles events.

"I have won a few titles and I suppose it's not too bad considering I was advised not to play sport again in my mid-20s," he said.

"I smashed my knee up playing football, I damaged my cruciate ligament, and I was told not to play sport. But I started to play squash in my late 20s. I have had a few operations on my knees but they have held up over the years."

"I played in the Birmingham League when I lived in Halesowen and then joined Stourbridge when we moved to Norton in the late 70s."

Not surprisingly, Garvey was also a hit on the squash court where he helped Stourbridge win 11 Worcestershire League titles and five cups while he went through one season with a perfect record of 16 wins from 16 games.

He then turned his attentions to racketball and captained the club to nine West Midlands League Division One successes between 1993 and 2002, doubling five of those wins up with the cup for good measure. Amazingly he lost just one game in those 10 seasons.

And with Garvey showing no sign of easing up, he is delighted to see a boom in the sport he loves.

## Leagues

"There are quite a lot of people playing the sport now," he said. "The racket and ball are bigger than those you use in squash and it's probably a bit easier to play."

"At our club, we have winter and summer leagues and there are about 15 divisions in each, so the sport is becoming really popular."

Sport is very much a part of the Garvey family make-up.

"My dad, Geoff, played alongside the great Wolves player and manager Stan Cullis in various war-time matches in the 40s," said Garvey.

"I have got programmes from games he played at Craven Cottage and Stamford Bridge and he played with numerous professionals."

"My son Mark was a goalkeeper and he played for Stourbridge and Halesowen. And my grandson Ryan is also a goalkeeper and is just starting out with Cookley."

"Sport runs in the family and hopefully I will carry playing for a few more years yet."

## City duo added to Gavin warm-up bill

A BIRMINGHAM boxing duo have been added to Frankie Gavin's European welterweight title warm-up next month.

Middleweight Daryl Pearce and super welterweight, Jordan Clayton are now also on the bill at Holiday Inn, Smallbrook Queensway.

Gavin, the former Commonwealth and British Champion takes on Kerman Lejarra in the Spaniard's back yard of Bilbao on November 17. Gavin is determined to bring home the European title, and, the 32-year-old will take part in the warm-up bout in his home city as he steps up his campaign.

The five-fight dinner show will also feature Gavin's stablemate Brad 'Bosh' Thomas, and Central Area heavyweight champion, Kash Ali, as well as Walsall super welterweight Levi Ferguson.

The show, 'Bilbao Bound', takes place on Sunday, September 16. Tickets are £65 to include a two-course Sunday lunch or £35 standard unreserved. Tickets can be purchased by calling 07900 741 617.

## Masters degree for former Wolves player

FORMER Wolves player Seyi Olofinjana has been awarded a Masters of Sport Directorship (MSD) by Manchester Metropolitan University Business School.

Former Nigeria international Olofinjana, a coach with Scott Sellars' Under 23s side at Molineux, played for Wolves for four years until 2008. He is one of only the second group of prominent sports and business people to be awarded the masters degree. These included former Warwickshire and England cricketer Ashley Giles and former Albion footballer Michael Appleton.

Olofinjana said: "Over a fascinating and challenging journey studying for the MSD we have covered a wide range of topics including leadership, management, and innovation as well as sports governance. A focus on managing staff and athletes looked in depth at achieving the highest level of performance and success. All of this will undoubtedly prove invaluable in my role coaching young people at Wolves."

## Young golfers tee up place in national final

TWO West Midland golfers have qualified for the national final of the American Golf Junior Championship.

The Chase Golf Club's Chloe Williamson and Enville Golf Club's Ewan Humphries will participate in the event October, covered on Sky Sports.

Williamson progressed after an outstanding performance in the qualifier at High Leigh Park Golf Club, Cheshire, and, despite entering the competition to 'gain experience for future competitions', she finished in second place after a strong back nine holes.

Humphries, from Stourbridge, had an equally as impressive showing at Gaudet Luce Golf Club, Droitwich, winning the upper net category by scoring 31 points off a handicap of 36.

Both Williamson and Humphries will play in the UK & Ireland final at Gainsborough Golf Club, sponsored by Ping. John Clark, managing director of Ping Europe, said: "We're delighted to be continuing our partnership with American Golf and being part of this fantastic event yet again."





## It's streaky Bacon for contest win

BIRMINGHAM skipper Tom Bacon stormed to a 15-point maximum as he won Cradley's F.A.S.T Golden Hammer individual.

It was a keenly fought contest at Monmore Green which went down to the final set of heats.

Both Bacon and former Heathens' favourite Danny Ayres had made a series of impressive gates to win all four of their opening rides before meeting in Heat 18.

And while it was Ayres who made the best gate in that one, it was the Brummies man who showed no fear to squeeze through a gap around the outside off bend number two to send the Perry Barr fans home happy.

Said Bacon: "I was really looking forward to the meeting in the build-up and I knew it wasn't going to be easy."

"There were a lot of fast guys out there and fortunately I made some really quick starts. It was tight with Danny in that last one but I managed to get through and I knew that was enough to win the meeting."

"I'm absolutely delighted to join such a brilliant list of names who've won this event in years gone by and this is an achievement I'm proud of."

"It's been a really good season for me personally; I feel like I've made plenty of progression and coming out on top in a line-up as strong as this shows that I guess."

Heathens are next in action on September 10, the first leg of the national league trophy final against Mildenhall.

## DLS comes into play as games are hit by the weather

A PATCHY Bromsgrove batting effort saw them restricted to 177-9 in 50 overs in their Birmingham League clash against Halesowen. Charlie Hartley took 3-43.

The game was halted by rain with Halesowen on 150-1 after 33 overs to win by 63 runs on the Duckworth-Lewis System with Jamie Harris unbeaten on 75.

DLS also came into play for the second team, who lost to Bromsgrove. Batting first they scored a useful 221 all out with Hassan Qami (85) the mainstay. In turn Bromsgrove moved to 190-6 from a strong opening partnership and then accelerated in the middle order before the rains came but won on the DLS method despite Hassan Akram's efforts of 3-39.

A young 3rd XI had their game abandoned at Astwood Bank. Bank scored 250-6 in 50 overs and Hales were 51-3 in reply, taking seven points to remain in top spot. The 4th team won their sixth game in a row thanks to a handy 228-7 (Alex Jordan 72), reducing Malvern to 70-6 (Alex Taylor 4-19) before the game was called off Hales winning on a run-rate calculation.

## Andy Poole's ahead to win trophy



Andy Poole receives the trophy from Derek Brookes

AN excellent night's bowling on an uncompromising Wernley green saw Andy Poole from Cradley Sports lift the Dudley League Merit with a nail-biting final win against Nathan Dawes of Dudley Dell, 21-20.

The final was level throughout with both bowlers playing some exceptional ends. Dawes looked to have a clear advantage when 19-16 up and then 20-18 up, but Poole came through

with some great pressure bowls.

STAFFORDSHIRE VETERANS won the British County Bowls Championships on a tricky green in Northwich, Cheshire.

Staffs were joined by teams from Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Derbyshire as the final four played off in a round robin format to crown the champions. After the first two rounds,

each team had won one match, so all depended on the final round, which saw Staffs taking on Merseyside.

The lead switched throughout the last two games with each of the four sides capable of lifting the trophy at one point or another.

But Staffs ran out eventual winners as both Steve Davis and John Corbett provided early 21-9 wins to put Staffordshire in the driving seat.

## Opening win of campaign for Glassboys

Stourbridge 3 Stratford 0

GOALS from Aaron Hayden, Greg Mills and Leon Broadhurst helped Glassboys to their first win of the season on Monday night.

Hayden headed home from a Mills corner to break the deadlock after 10 minutes and Mills again had a hand in the second just seven minutes later, scored by Broadhurst after Luke Benbow's effort had been kept out. It was three just after the half-hour mark, with Mills this time providing the finish with a curling effort.

Glassboys kicked off their season with a point earned two minutes from time at Barwell on Saturday.

A penalty from Luke Benbow earned a share of the spoils after the striker had gone down in the area. He got up to take the kick himself after Leon Broadhurst saw an earlier kick saved by Liam Castle.

Brady Hickey set up the Barwell opener for Massiah McDonald on 42 minutes.

Stourbridge were awarded their first penalty on 48 minutes when new signing Mills went down in the box but Broadhurst saw his shot saved.

But Benbow made no mistake from the second spot-kick when he was brought down on 88, keeping his cool after a delay in which Hickey was sent off for a second bookable offence.

The Glassboys are at home again on Saturday when Rushden & Diamonds visit Amblecote.

# YELTZ FAIL TO BUILD ON START

HALESOWEN Town were unable to build on their opening day win as they went down 2-1 to Banbury United on Tuesday night.

All the goals came inside the first 16 minutes, with Banbury scoring either side of a James Roberts penalty.

On Saturday, Yeltz had got off to a winning start, thanks to a late Lee Hughes penalty against an unlucky Lowestoft side.

The youthful Trawler Boys were beaten with just two minutes remaining when Roberts was brought down in the penalty area by goalkeeper Elvijs Putnins and Hughes stroked home the resulting penalty. Home goalkeeper Dan Platt made a good fingertip save to deny substitute Kieron Higgs a deserved equaliser deep in stoppage time.

The visitors settled to play some neat football and an 18th minute long throw-in from Connor Deeks into the Yeltz penalty area caused danger. For Halesowen, Ahmed Ali headed into the arms of Putnins after 25 minutes.

### Infringement

The visitors went close on 32 minutes after Matt Brown played a long ball out of defence and play was allowed to continue from Asa Charlton's infringement on the edge of the penalty area, allowing Jacek Zielonka to cross for Shaun Bammant to head a good chance over the bar.

Immediately after the interval Bammant and Connor Ingram went close as the Trawler Boys enjoyed much the better of the second half. Zielonka's clever 68th minute corner was met by his captain Adam Smith on the edge of the area, only for Dan Platt to make a flying save. Platt then kept out a low shot from Deeks at the foot of his post and Smith hit over in the 70th minute.

Lowestoft continued to be the better team as an 82nd minute cross flew right along the home goal-line.

On Saturday, Yeltz travel to Kettering, kick off 3pm.

## Valiant veterans stroll to finals



Nail-biting victory with Hartshill Strollers now set for the national finals

DUDLEY'S Hartshill Strollers have won through to the national finals of walking football's top trophy.

The club's Over 65s team, based at Summerhill School in Kingswinford, beat Nottingham-based Bramcote WFC 3-2 in the competition's regional final.

The super-veterans will now go on to the Grand Finals on Sunday, September 30. The

venue has yet to be announced. The WFA National Cup is walking football's most prestigious tournament, equivalent to the FA Cup, and involves clubs from all over the country.

Hartshill's Over 60s team won the trophy in 2016. This year's 65plus regional clash was a nail-biting affair. Bob Haywood, Hartshill's manager, said: "It was a tough match. Our tenacity and team spirit won through."

## Oar-some feat by rowing club pair

DUDLEY Rowing Club are creating history this weekend by entering their first ever Regatta.

Sophie Glazzard and Ben Nolan are entering the Junior Fifteen Single Sculls at Warwick Regatta, held on the River Avon with the backdrop of the castle.

The youngsters have been training at their base, Dudley Watersports Centre, and also on the River Severn at Bridgnorth, thanks to the help of Bridgnorth Rowing Club and secretary Sam Butler, who are helping by allowing them to use their boats and facilities, in order to give them experience rowing in fine boats on a good stretch of water.

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